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Central Florida Future

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HEALIN'

UCF athletic trainers serve a number of roles to student-athletes.

—SEE SPORTS, A6

JUICED!

There's a new, growing trend among hip-hop artists like Nelly — energy drinks.

—SEE THE indie, i1

Fraternity caught in sticky situation

School investigating tree-tying incident

RACHEL BECK
Staff Writer

UCF Police found a fraternity member covered in plastic wrap and tied to a tree behind the Pi Beta Phi sorority house on Sunday night.

Sean Pierce, the plastic-wrapped member of Phi Delta Theta fraternity, also was decorated in shaving cream, marshmallows, chocolate syrup and vegetable oil, and had permanent marker writings on his

body and face, according to the form that referred the incident to the Student Conduct Board.

Pierce was accompanied by several other members of his fraternity who, according to the referral form, had poured and thrown the materials on him. Pierce told police his fraternity brothers did this to him because he "lavaliered" his girlfriend — gave her a necklace charm bearing the Greek letters of his fraternity — the previous night. Pierce's girlfriend is a member of Pi Beta Phi sorority.

Pierce told police that this treatment was done to all

members who lavaliered their girlfriends, according to the form.

Phi Delta Theta President Christopher Merritt said that's not the case.

"It is absolutely untrue that anything like this routinely happens after a lavalier is given," Merritt said in an e-mailed response to questions from the *Future*. "The statements in the incident report concerning this are vague, and the brother who gave the statement feels like his words were severely misconstrued."

The matter has been turned over to the university, which

will determine if the episode constitutes hazing and if there will be any punishment, said UCF Police Sgt. Troy Williamson.

Hazing is most commonly associated with actions taken against individuals attempting to gain membership in a club or organization.

"Although the brother in question is not a pledge and has been an initiated member for two years, our chapter stands firmly against unacceptable behavior whether it involves initiated brothers or pledges," Merritt said in the e-mail. "This is an isolated inci-

dent we're dealing with and is not characteristic of the strong brotherhood displayed by our chapter."

Merritt said regardless of what action is taken by the Student Conduct Board, he and the fraternity's judicial board will take swift internal action to ensure this type of activity does not occur again.

"The incident alleged to have occurred Sunday night is being evaluated by, and will be resolved through, our Judicial Board," read a statement released by the fraternity. "Any member found in noncompliance will face sanctions such as

mandatory community service hours, social probation, suspension from athletics, as well as other more serious sanctions if deemed necessary."

The fraternity also plans to meet with the director of Greek Affairs, Greg Mason, to make sure the university administration is satisfied with the actions taken against those found to be involved, he said.

The incident was witnessed by Pi Beta Phi President Laura Creegen, who said, in an e-mailed response to the *Future*, that no members of the sorority were involved and she could not comment further.

Rash of car burglaries has police puzzled

KIMBERLY CALHOUN
Contributing Writer

Twenty-two car burglaries were reported to UCF Police during January and February, with 15 occurring in January alone, most during a 10-day span.

In an e-mail alerting the UCF community of the high volume of burglaries and vehicle thefts, Sgt. Troy Williamson of UCF Police said the incidents are occurring in apartment communities along the Alafaya Trail and University Boulevard corridors, and include apartments located on McCulloch Road in Seminole County.

Anyone who owns a Honda or Toyota Camry should be especially alert. "[These cars] have the most opportunity to be stolen," Williamson said.

In one burglary, Daniel Flanagan's white Honda was vandalized Feb. 14 in the visitor's parking area beside Building 23 at Pegasus Pointe, police said.

"Flanagan returned to his vehicle and discovered that the front driver's side window had been busted out," Officer James Brannon wrote in the incident report. "Flanagan discovered that approximately 50 music [compact discs], an Alpine amplifier and a set of Boston Comp speakers were also missing from his vehicle."

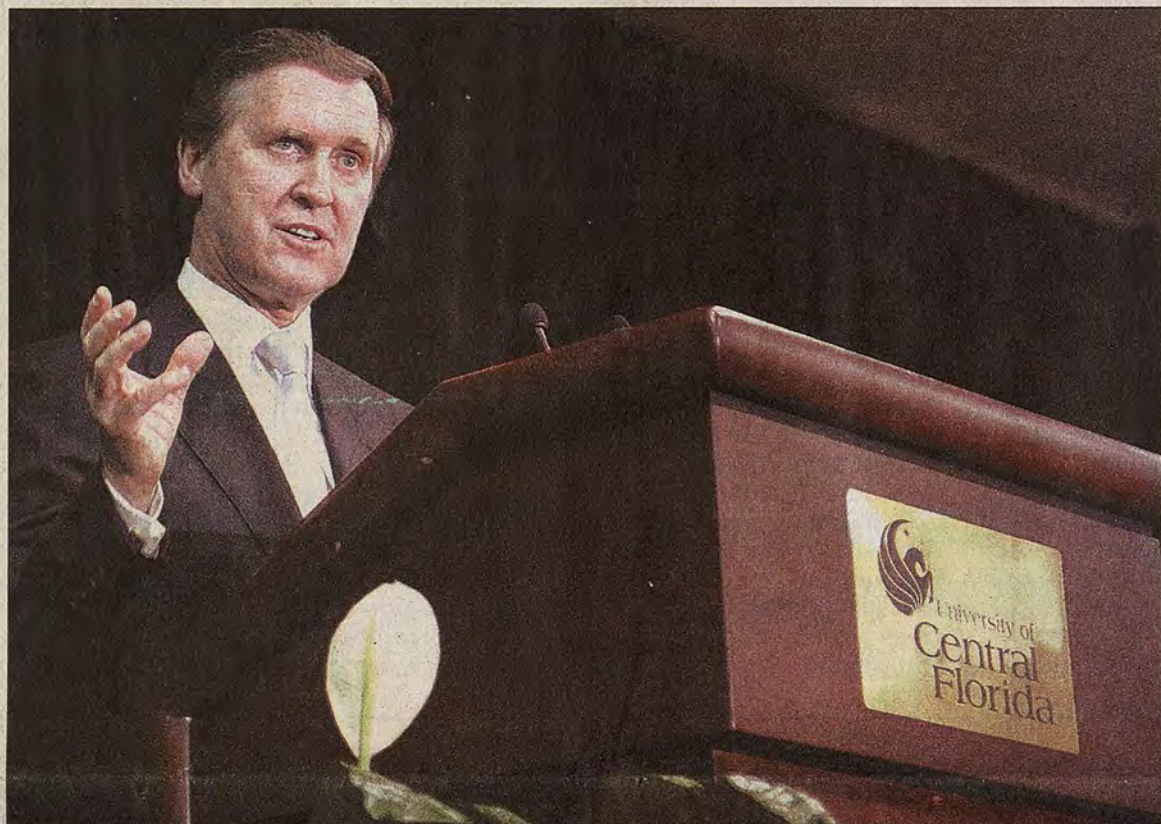
Flanagan declined a request to be interviewed.

In some cases, the value of the items stolen during a car burglary can amount to thousands of dollars. In one case, a victim found one of the sirens from his car alarm system on the ground. Jason Denson, who reported that crime to police, said, "The vehicle was forcefully entered and the hood was popped in order to disconnect the alarm system."

The items stolen from Denson included a seven-inch flip-up monitor for a DVD player, a 15-inch flip-down monitor, two speakers with a handmade speaker box, two amplifiers, 92 CDs and a CD binder, police said. The items were valued at \$6,000.

The UCF Police log for February indicated that the highest value of items stolen from a single vehicle was about \$45,000. The victim of this theft, Prince Fielder, had

PLEASE SEE SINGLE ON A4



William Cohen, defense secretary under the Clinton administration, said partisanship is key to solving American national security problems.

America 'dropped its guard'

Former defense secretary says vigilance is key to preventing attacks

ALEX BABCOCK
Managing Editor

Blame complacency, not the president, for the deaths of nearly 3,000 Americans on Sept. 11, 2001, William Cohen, a defense secretary under the Clinton administration, said in a speech at the Student Union yesterday.

"There were warning signs ... it still didn't register that people out there were trying to kill us," he said. "We dropped our guard."

Cohen's words came on the heels of testimony at federal Sept. 11 investigative commission hearings on Tuesday in Washington. He said at those hearings that the public wouldn't have accepted a war in Afghanistan before Sept. 11 happened, because the average American didn't see al Qaeda terrorist network as a threat.

The National Commission on Terrorist Attacks, launched in late 2002 by the George W. Bush administration, has conducted seven hearings to find out why American intelligence information failed to prevent the Sept. 11

terrorist attacks.

At yesterday's forum, Cohen continued to pick at the handling of terrorism by the United States. "We became too complacent," Cohen said. "We got stunned."

Chief among his concerns were that Congress and the public were largely unaware of the dangers men like Osama Bin Laden posed.

Cohen also talked about Iraq and the need to remain in the region despite waning public support for it and continued American casualties. "Were we right or wrong?" Cohen asked of the decision to invade Iraq. "It doesn't matter at this point. We're there." Though the United States is progressing toward a midsummer transfer of power to an Iraqi government, we need to maintain a force in the country, Cohen said. Without such a force, the work to improve conditions in the formerly dictator-controlled nation would worsen. "We would not only destabilize Iraq, but we would also likely destabilize the whole region," he said,

PLEASE SEE OTHER ON A2

Film student unaware of his film festival win

JESSICA LACOMBÉ
Staff Writer

Adam Showen's four-minute film won an honorable mention at this year's Florida Film Festival, but he wasn't told until after the awards ceremony had taken place.

As the festival completed its 13th edition on March 13, the film department senior's film, *The Boy Who Lost His Song*, garnered accolades in the short-film category.

Winners were announced at a ceremony at Church Street Station. In an unfortunate twist, Showen was not informed of the ceremony or his award until later.

Showen's film, shot in a German impressionistic style, was inspired by the Radiohead song, "Exit Music for a Film." Showen said the German expressionist quality allowed him to incorporate dimensions of comedy and transcendence into the film without making it pretentious.

Though the film was inspired by a song, Showen said he was also motivated by his personal experiences.

"It was my way of getting over an ex-girlfriend," he said. "Like the final chapter."

The Student Works portion of the festival consisted of a free screening on March 9 at the Enzian Theater. Student films from a variety of Florida universities, including Valencia Community College, Florida State University, University of Florida, Rollins College and Full Sail, were screened. In addition to Showen's, the works of three other UCF students were featured.

For many students, the showcase is the first time their films have ever been seen on the big screen. Young filmmakers historically have used the screening as a chance to gain some needed exposure.

The genres chosen by the student filmmakers included not only short films but also documentaries and studies in digital media. Topics ranged from a history of the Florida "Cracker," to an alien trying to take a vacation, to a man confronted with whether to push a button labeled "Do Not Press."

First prize in the Student Works portion was awarded to Todd Schulman from FSU for his graduate student film, *The Plunge*.



President John Hitt, left, and Provost Terry Hickey field questions from the unusually small audience at Monday's Open Forum.

Hitt goes to bat against Bush

ANDRES HEALY
Senior Staff Writer

UCF couldn't provide enough classes under a plan by Gov. Jeb Bush to offer students free classes if they sign up for more than 15 credit hours in a semester, UCF President John Hitt said Monday. Hitt also said he opposes charging some students out-of-state tuition.

"We have a real problem," Hitt said in response to a question during a sparsely attended Open Forum between students and campus administrators. "If we are out of money now, we don't see how we can operate under the proposed system."

Bush proposed the few waiver for extra courses in an effort to push students through the

state's overcrowded and currently underfunded university system faster.

Hitt, however, explained that UCF students on average register for 12 credit hours per semester. If the students currently enrolled at UCF start taking additional classes above that 12-credit-hour average, UCF estimates the demand for seats would increase by 25 percent.

"We only have about 15 percent vacant seats right now," Hitt said. "We would be 10 percent short there, and that is not even considering the fact that many students would need to take different classes."

According to a written report UCF submitted to the Florida Board of Governors, the block tuition proposal would

Open Forum hard to find, A4

cost the university at least \$11 million more than the current budget.

Hitt also said he disagrees with the governor's push to charge all students out-of-state tuition after they have taken more than 110 percent of the credits their degree requires or are no longer degree-seeking students.

"It's reasonable to say that the state won't pay for some unlimited number of credits," Hitt said. "I just wonder if we are cutting it too close with the 110 percent."

He explained that for most

PLEASE SEE PRESIDENT ON A4

Around Campus

Woodward to revisit Watergate

Bob Woodward, the journalist who helped to uncover the Watergate plot that led to President Richard Nixon's 1974 resignation, will speak at 7 p.m. Monday as the highlight of a two-day symposium at UCF on the topic, "The Impact of Watergate: A 30-Year Retrospective."

Other topics covered in the symposium, which begins at 9:30 a.m. Monday, include Nixon as a political and historical figure, Congress in the wake of Watergate, and impeachment and scandal over time. The program is sponsored by UCF's Lou Frey Institute of Politics and Government.

All events, including Woodward's speech, are free and take place in the Student Union's Cape Florida Room. To pre-register or see a full schedule of events, visit <http://www.loufrey.org>.

Cultural fashion show

An international fashion show called "Fashion Fusion" hits campus at 7 p.m. tomorrow in the Student Union's Pegasus Ballroom.

The show, hosted by the International Students Association, will have clothes from different world cultures and American contemporary wear. The cultures represented are a reflection of the diversity of students on campus, integrating into an American culture. The event is meant to inspire unity and diversity on campus.

The show is free and open to the public.

Call Shreya Trivedi at 407-313-3700 or e-mail shreyatrivedi@hotmail.com for more information.

'Get Carded' organ donation gala

Success stories about organ donation will be shared at the "Get Carded Green Ribbon Gala," to be held at 6 p.m. Tuesday in the Student Union's Pegasus Ballroom.

"Get Carded," an effort begun in 1997 by Volunteer UCF and TransLife, Central Florida's organ and tissue donation and kidney transplant program, is an education program designed to encourage people to participate in organ donation. The effort has distributed more than 75,000 donor cards since it began.

Call Lesley Ann McMillen, the "Get Carded" liaison for the Florida Coalition on Donation, at 407-303-3633, or e-mail Lesley.Moorman-McMillen@translife.org for information.

Clarification

A column in the March 18 edition of the *indie* credited to Angus McWitherspoon, pen name of indie staff columnist Brandon Hardin, made a statement that "Ludacris' posse ... threatened to kill" the fictional McWitherspoon. No such incident occurred.

Let us know

The *Future* wants to hear from you! If you have a club, organization or event and want your information to be considered for the Around Campus column, send a fax to 407-447-4556 or an e-mail to editor@ucfnews.com. Deadlines are 5 p.m. Tuesday for the Thursday edition, and 5 p.m. Friday for the Monday edition.

SGA tops in magazine ranking

HEIDI A. DE VRIES
Senior Staff Writer

The UCF Student Government Association has been named Best Student Government in the state by *Florida Leader* magazine. "Isn't that amazing?" student Sen. Nick Merolle said. "I agree with them, we are the best in the state."

Florida Leader also gave accolades to the UCF Homecoming Committee, the Burnett Honors College HERO program and the *Future* as the best in their class statewide. "It's all these things together that really helped [the SGA] to get the award," said SGA Senate Speaker Pete Cimino. "The participation of students in Homecoming, the SGA working with the Office of Student Involvement, and the paper all made this happen."

Cimino agreed with *Florida Leader* on some of SGA's biggest

accomplishments this year. "The SGA computer lab ... we give students what they need, the free access to computers." The changes this year, including security to make sure the lab is used only by UCF students, as well as new printers, computers, and a new color poster printer all helped to improve one of the only labs on campus to still offer free printing.

Florida Leader has been publishing for 21 years and hands out the annual awards based upon submissions and supplementary materials the writers gather independently.

In recognizing SGA, the judges mentioned the Golden

Knights celebration, including the day at Islands of Adventure.

The changes to this year's event include a reduced price tag for SGA, coming out to about \$12 per student, as well as 5,000 more students being allowed in and the event lasting two hours longer.

Knightmare,

UCF's Homecoming event, was also declared the best in the state. James Fisher, the director of Homecoming, said that his board was constantly working to make sure Homecoming was the best it could be. "It's just a

giant combination. No one looks at UCF Homecoming and sees just one thing."

Additionally, the Burnett Honors College Honors Educational Reach Out program was named the best volunteer program in the state. Jill Norburn, the director of Honors Student Affairs, said that more recruiting for volunteers and the addition of HERO volunteers at Bonnevill Elementary School were the biggest differences this year.

HERO volunteers can either choose a subject of interest to teach children in Hillcrest Elementary's after-school program or choose to tutor and review in FCAT skills to the students at Bonnevill Elementary.

The *Future* was named best newspaper in the state. Reasons cited included the change to a larger size, the Pacemaker award the *Future* garnered last year, as well as "creative" design and news coverage.



Other countries: Terrorism is 'not our problem'

FROM A1

later adding, "We've got to stay in for the long haul — if there's any hope of maintaining that we did the right thing."

Promoting a successful, democratic-style government in Iraq could ultimately be contagious, spreading to nearby countries like Bahrain and Qatar, which are already showing some affect from America's presence in the region.

Last Friday was the one-year anniversary of the invasion of Iraq. Protesters throughout the world marked the occasion with rallies against the United States' continued presence in the Middle Eastern nation.

Though Cohen's speech remained largely non-partisan, he appeared to take a shot at the Bush administration when he said the United States needs to do more to involve other nations in the war on terror.

"The United States should

only be willing to conduct itself as if there are multiple centers of power in the world," Cohen said, suggesting a multilateral strategy is necessary to win the war on terror. Critics have accused the Bush administration of acting on its own when attacking Iraq, though a coalition of 34 countries supported military operations there.

"We have to persuade the countries throughout the world that terror is not just our problem," Cohen said. "Other countries say 'It's not our problem.' We are living in a world where terror can reach any part of the globe."

Cohen's appearance was sponsored by the UCF Office of Global Perspectives. UCF President John Hitt recommended Cohen speak at the university. Hitt and John Bersia work together to decide which speakers UCF invites. "He gives a very balanced view," Hitt said of Cohen after the

speech. "I think he's a very bright, articulate spokesman."

After a 40-minute speech, Cohen took questions from the audience, which took up most of about 400 seats in the Key West Room.

Cohen defended the Bush administration when asked if there was an ulterior motive to going to war in Iraq. He said the intelligence that the Clinton administration had showed that Iraq did have weapons of mass destruction, which had been used on Hussein's own people. Assuming the weapons were still in Iraq when there was no sign that they'd been destroyed was the proper thing to do, he said.

"If [Hussein] destroyed them, tell us when, tell us where, tell us how. He failed to account for them," Cohen said.

Cohen also said the Clinton administration had launched air strikes in 1998 based on its intelligence, something he said

set back Hussein's weapons program by more than a year.

History Professor Bruce F. Pauley asked Cohen if, like Germany between World War I and World War II, it was unreasonable to think Iraq's government wouldn't fall into the hands of extremists.

Cohen said the expectation is reasonable, bolstered by the prospect of a continued peace-keeping presence.

Cohen made a call for Congress to remain non-partisan in working on intelligence failures. "There really isn't a Republican or Democratic view when we're talking about national security."

He left the audience with advice that the nation needs to understand the other cultures of the world to work with them. He said, "We must try to understand how other people see us, and try to find a way, a willingness to support us in our fight against terrorism."

Come one, come all to Islands of Adventure



Thousands of students wait in lines stretching from the UCF Bookstore to beyond Phillips Hall on Monday. 12,000 total free tickets to Universal's Islands of Adventure are available to UCF students; all remaining tickets will be given out today from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. in front of the bookstore, and from 4 p.m. to 8 p.m. on the side patio of the Recreation and Wellness Center.

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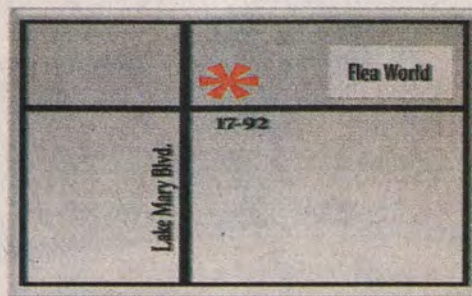
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More empty seats than live bodies greeted UCF leaders

ANDRES HEALY
Senior Staff Writer

The Open Forum on Monday's with UCF's top administrators resembled a ghost town — the audience numbered just eight people, plus a *Future* photographer and reporter. It was held in a different place and at a different time of day than previous forums that had attracted spillover audiences and lasted longer than an hour, and it was over in 20 minutes.

Getting there might have been the problem.

When I began my trek to the forum, I didn't know where it was, just the name of the room — Live Oak Room A.

Checking the daily "campus news" e-mail didn't help — it said there was an event at 4 p.m. and another at 7 p.m. in the Student Union, but nothing in between. The forum was supposed to take place at 5:30 p.m.

I called President John Hitt's office. Someone there assured me that Hitt was scheduled to be in the Live Oak Room at 5:30 p.m. "It says here that he is going to be in Room A, if that helps," the woman said. She then added cryptically, "Provost [Terry] Hickey is supposed to be in Room A and Room B."

She told me to call the Student Union to confirm, so I did. Whomever answered the phone there did confirm — that nothing was going on at the Union at 5:30 p.m.

At the Union's information desk, someone did know that the Live Oak Room wasn't in the

Union at all. It was in the Marketplace, a cafeteria on the south side of campus.

After wandering across campus and making a call to my editor, I found what I thought was it.

I asked the first cafeteria lady I saw inside where I could find the promised meeting. Her response: "I have no idea what you are talking about."

"Do you know where the Marketplace is?" I asked her and another cafeteria worker who had joined the conversation.

Neither had even heard of it, apparently. Frantic again, I scoured the area for any sign of the place. Surely someone knew where it was.

I went outside and asked some passing students. They looked at me like I was a monkey in the zoo, and pointed directly behind me — at the building from which I had just emerged. I went back in.

It was then, while waiting in the growing dinner line, that I noticed the large words embossed across the ceiling over the cafeteria lady's head: "Marketplace." (I will add at this point that I have terrible, terrible vision.)

Speaking to the first cafeteria lady once more, I pointed out to her that she was working in a building with the word "Marketplace" written across the ceiling. She was dumfounded.

Still stunned, she then managed to tell me she had noticed some tables being set up on the opposite side of the building. I dashed over and plopped into a vacant seat with only three minutes to spare.

At the previous forum, held last month at the Union, the scene was chaotic. The room was at capacity and I never would have gotten such a prime

President doesn't want students to pay more

FROM A1

students, 110 percent would only provide them with a four-class cushion, or about 12 credit hours. He added, "It's easy to see how a student would want to take an extra four classes before they graduate."

Hitt did say that the governor's office has said it would allow individual universities to make exceptions to the rule. Still, the president would like to see more leeway provided at a state level.

"If it came down to it, I would argue for a rule of 115 percent rather than 110 percent," Hitt said. "That would give students an 18-credit cushion."

Addressing Bush's propos-

al to charge out-of-state tuition to students who are not seeking degrees, Hitt said that the proposals could work, provided the state makes some much-needed exceptions.

"I really don't think the state would want to make school teachers, who are getting re-certified or simply taking classes to better their knowledge, out-of-state tuition," he said.

"Would we really want to charge a taxpayer in the state of Florida out-of-state tuition simply for trying to expand their professional competency?" he added.

According to Provost Terry Hickey, lobbying groups that represent student governments and faculty groups

statewide already have expressed to the governor their disapproval of his proposals.

Hitt added that there are bills making their way through the Florida Legislature right now that could change many of the budget proposals.

"We will have to wait and see what turns out," he said. "However, if any student really has concerns, I'd encourage them to contact their local senator or House representative and let them know how you feel."

He added, "I have a lot of respect for the governor; we have worked together extremely well throughout our time together. This is just something we don't agree on."

seat, directly next to a microphone, had I shown up so late. Looking around, I counted seven students and about an equal number of faculty and administrators.

"Where is everyone?" I thought. Being nosy, I listened in on some of the other student's conversations.

"Can you believe we are getting extra credit for being here?" one said.

"I know, how easy is that," someone replied.

Of course, that meant that of the seven students in attendance, only two, counting myself, had any real interest. Between the two of us, we managed to ask five questions and carry the forum on our backs for 20 minutes.

A chance to speak with those

who sit on UCF's Mount Olympus and that's all the campus could muster?

Told afterward about the near-empty room, many student leaders blamed the school for not doing more to publicize the event.

Previous forums had been held at midday. Hitt moved this one to the evening hour to accommodate those who couldn't attend during the day, and the location was moved to the cafeteria from the Student Union, which had hosted previous forums.

SGA President-elect Kevin Peters said he had no clue that the forum was scheduled.

"The reason for the low attendance was poor advertisement, not that students did not care enough to attend," he said.

"There seems to have been a breakdown in the communication somewhere, because I didn't even know about it, and I consider myself to be pretty well-informed about stuff around campus."

He added that the decision to move the forum to the evening was a good one because it would allow more students to attend, at least in theory.

"The time would have been good for me had I known about it," he said. "I definitely would have been there."

Zachary Moldof, a liberal studies major, questioned Hitt and Provost Terry Hickey at the February forum about the lack of student involvement in UCF's radio station.

He said he would have followed up on his concerns on

Monday "if I had known where or when it was," he said. "I need to talk to Hickey again because the contact he gave me refuses to talk to me. She said I'd have to wait a month to talk to her, and then she told me she wouldn't give me any answers because I am a rude and inconsiderate boy."

He added, "I got an e-mail about [the forum] a week or so ago, but after that I didn't see any other notice about it. Normally, they send out lots of e-mails and put some kind of sign in the Student Union."

"I wouldn't be surprised if they were trying to keep it hush," he continued. "At the last Open Forum they didn't really address any of my problems; they just sent me to other people who did nothing to help me."

Emily Ruff, a philosophy major and a frequent participant in campus rallies, said she was pleased to learn that the time of the event was moved to accommodate the schedules of more non-traditional students. However, she questioned administrators' motives for moving it to the Marketplace.

"It was kind of weird place to hold it," she said. "Many students don't even know where that is. It would have been a lot better to hold it in a more central and popular place like the Student Union."

She also felt that the school didn't do enough to publicize the event. "I understand that [UCF] sent out an e-mail in advance, but I think that the administration should be putting up posters around campus and getting the word out through SGA and the Office of Student Involvement," she said.

PLEASE SEE **STUDENT** ON A5

Single largest theft from a car totaled \$45,000

FROM A1

parked his vehicle near Building 20 in Pegasus Pointe. Three miniature televisions, a CD changer, a DVD player, eight 12-inch speakers, the amplifiers, his wallet, insurance card, a CD case with 10 CDs inside, an Armani wristwatch and \$160 in cash were stolen from the vehicle, Fiedler told police.

Although Williamson said he does not know what has caused the increase in car burglaries, he said people can decrease their chances of becoming victims by making sure that valuables are not left inside their vehicles at night or during the day on campus. Purses and book bags are highly attractive items to a thief, Williamson said.

He also suggested that car owners install and use car alarm systems.

With the increase in burglaries, police patrols have been increased in Pegasus Landing, Pegasus Pointe and on the main campus, Williamson added.

James Murray, an aerospace engineering major, uses a car alarm and has an anti-theft device, called the Club, on his steering wheel. These two precautions could be the reason that nothing was stolen from Murray's car when it was broken into in January, he said.

"I take the shuttle to campus, so my car was parked outside my apartment at Pegasus Landing," Murray said. When he returned to his car, he said

The UCF Knights Safety Guide says students should protect their property in these ways:

- Don't lend your keys because they can be duplicated.
- Engrave all valuable personal property with your name and phone number. Keep an inventory of items.
- Keep valuables in the trunk of your vehicle, not on the seats.
- Lock your vehicle at all times.
- Copy your vehicle registration.
- Park in well-lit areas.
- Remove all keys from your vehicle.

he noticed that the vinyl top of his 1994 Mustang convertible had been cut.

"It was clean cut like someone had cut it with a knife," he said. "I was on my way to an appointment, so I didn't report it right away."

When I saw the damaged cruise control button in my car, I thought maybe someone had tried to steal my car.

"I called the police and they wanted me to return to campus to make a report. I was on my way, but my car overheated, so I wasn't able to make the report until Feb. 10."

In addition to taking safety precautions, Williamson said students can help police solve the problem of car burglaries by watching for suspicious people in parking lots at night.

Anyone who has information about those responsible for crimes should call CrimeLine at 407-423-TIPS, and could be eligible for a reward of as much as \$1,000.



MATTHEW WRIGHT / CENTRAL FLORIDA FUTURE

Sgt. Troy Williamson alerted the UCF community of a rash of car burglaries along Alafaya Trail and University Boulevard. Anyone who has information about those responsible for the thefts is eligible for a reward up to \$1,000.

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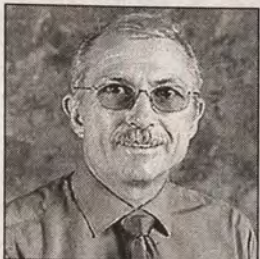
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Ask a doc



JERRY VEGA, PA-C
UCF Health Services

I have heard about West Nile virus and was wondering what are my chances of getting sick?

As we approach the warmer summer months, it's important to be aware of protection from diseases that might be spread by mosquito bites. Around the world mosquitoes are responsible for numerous illnesses and deaths from yellow fever, malaria, dengue fever and others. Here in the United States we do not have these illnesses, but there are illnesses that are associated with mosquito bites. West Nile virus is a disease that was first diagnosed in the United States in 1999. West Nile virus may be transmitted when an infected mosquito bites a human to take in blood. Mosquitoes become infected when they feed on infected birds, which may circulate the virus in their blood for a few days. In addition, recent investigations confirmed WNV transmission through transplanted organs and transfused blood. The recent introduction of routine WNV screening of blood donations should greatly reduce the risk of spread of WNV through transfused blood.

Dead birds may be a sign that WNV is circulating between birds and mosquitoes in an area. Over 130 species of birds are known to have been infected with

WNV, though not all infected birds will die. It's important to remember that birds die from many other causes besides WNV.

Only about one person out of five who are bitten by an infected mosquito will experience any illness. Although illness from WNV is usually mild, serious illness and death are possible, particularly for persons over the age of 50. Typical symptoms from mild infection include weakness, loss of appetite, nausea, vomiting, headache, muscle aching, swollen glands and rashes. Symptoms generally starts approximately three to 14 days after the mosquito bite and last from three to six days. Approximately one in 500 cases will develop a more severe form of the disease. In recent outbreaks, symptoms occurring among patients hospitalized with the severe disease include fever, weakness, gastrointestinal symptoms and confusion. Severe neurological

disease has occurred in patients of all ages. Year-round transmission is possible in some areas. Treatment of mild cases usually only requires rest, acetaminophen for fever and fluids. Severe cases often require hospitalization, intravenous fluids, respiratory support and prevention of other infections.

Three simple actions can help prevent infection: Avoid mosquito bites by using insect repellents with DEET and wearing light, long-sleeved clothing; mosquito-proof your home by emptying standing water and installing screens; and help your community by reporting dead birds to local health authorities. Also limit your exposure to mosquito bites during high risk dusk and nighttime hours.

Extensive studies have found DEET products to be effective and safe, even for children, if applied properly.

Apply only to exposed skin; spray can damage clothing.

Products containing 30-50 percent DEET are most effective. Effectiveness plateaus at 50 percent.

Use only outdoors and wash after coming indoors.

Do not breathe in, swallow or get into the eyes.

Do not put on wounds or broken skin.

Non-DEET repellents do not provide significant protection. A study in the New England Journal of medicine revealed the effectiveness of botanical insecticide to be less than 20 minutes, insecticide-impregnated wrist bands to be less than one minute and moisturizer to have repellent effects of less than 10 minutes. This is in comparison to over five hours of protection from DEET products.

There is no vaccine available, so prevention is the only way to avoid the illness.

E-mail your questions to
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Student leaders baffled by lack of advance notice

FROM A4

Hickey challenged the claims that UCF didn't publicize it. "I really don't know exactly how it was advertised," he said. "The same people put this on each time, so I would imagine it was done the same way."

Tom Evelyn, of University Relations, says the UCF Report had a note up for about a week on its Web site promoting the forum. He said the UCF marquee had a message up as well.

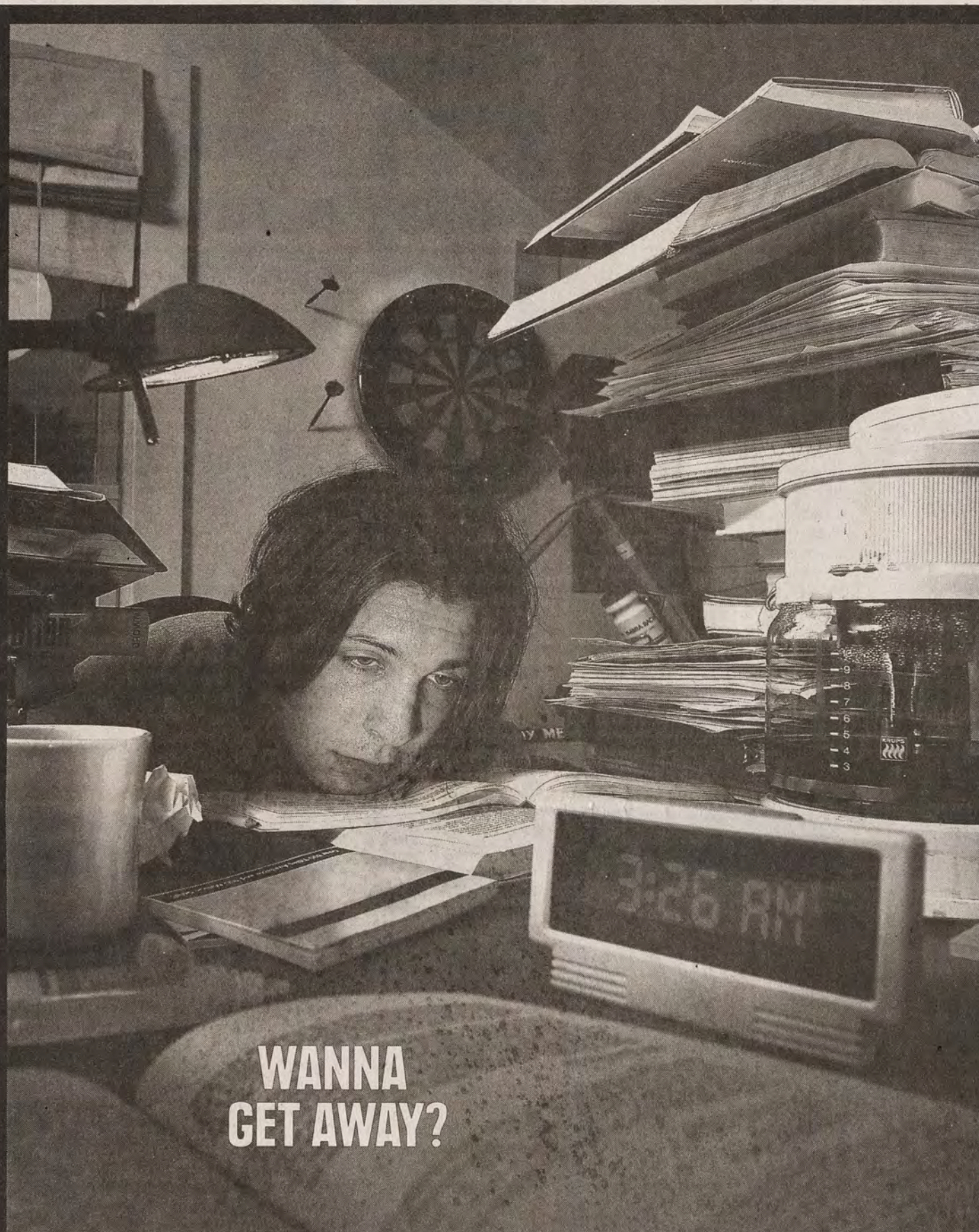
"Open Forums generally range from a turnout as low as a handful to as busy as the most recent forum, where more than 50 people attended," he said. "There could be just no hot issues among students at the time, or maybe it was an issue of the time and place."

However, he added, "Personally, I think that a majority of the students who are active on campus might be here on campus only during the day. The administrators chose to move the time and place to accommodate some students' requests, and it just didn't work out like they might have wanted."

Still, the low turnout will not affect the number of open forums that the university plans to hold, Hickey said. He said that the majority of the forums were still scheduled to take place during the day, but that some will take place again in the early evening hours.

"This could have been just a tough day for some people to attend, so it certainly shouldn't be the basis for not holding any other forums in the early evening hours," he said.

"We chose to move the forum to this time because of complaints we received from students and faculty that they couldn't attend the Open Forum because it was held at 11 o'clock when many were still in classes," Hitt said at the forum. "Judging from today's turnout, we really don't know when the best time would be."



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INSIDE THE NUMBERS

55

Number of times UCF baseball has beaten the Stetson Hatters.

40

Number of times the Stetson baseball team has beaten UCF.

.339

Team batting average for Stetson baseball this season.

.210

Batting average allowed by UCF pitchers this season.

Briefs

MTV casting directors will hold an open casting call for shows such as *Real World* and *True Stories* at 10 a.m. Saturday at Jay Bergman Field. While UCF baseball takes on Stetson at noon, fans will compete in a variety of contests between innings to impress the directors.

Upcoming

Baseball hosts Stetson at 6 p.m. tomorrow at Jay Bergman Field, and at noon Saturday for a doubleheader. ... Softball heads to Nashville tomorrow for a doubleheader at Lipscomb and a doubleheader at Belmont on Saturday. ... Women's tennis heads to Miami Saturday to take on the Hurricanes.

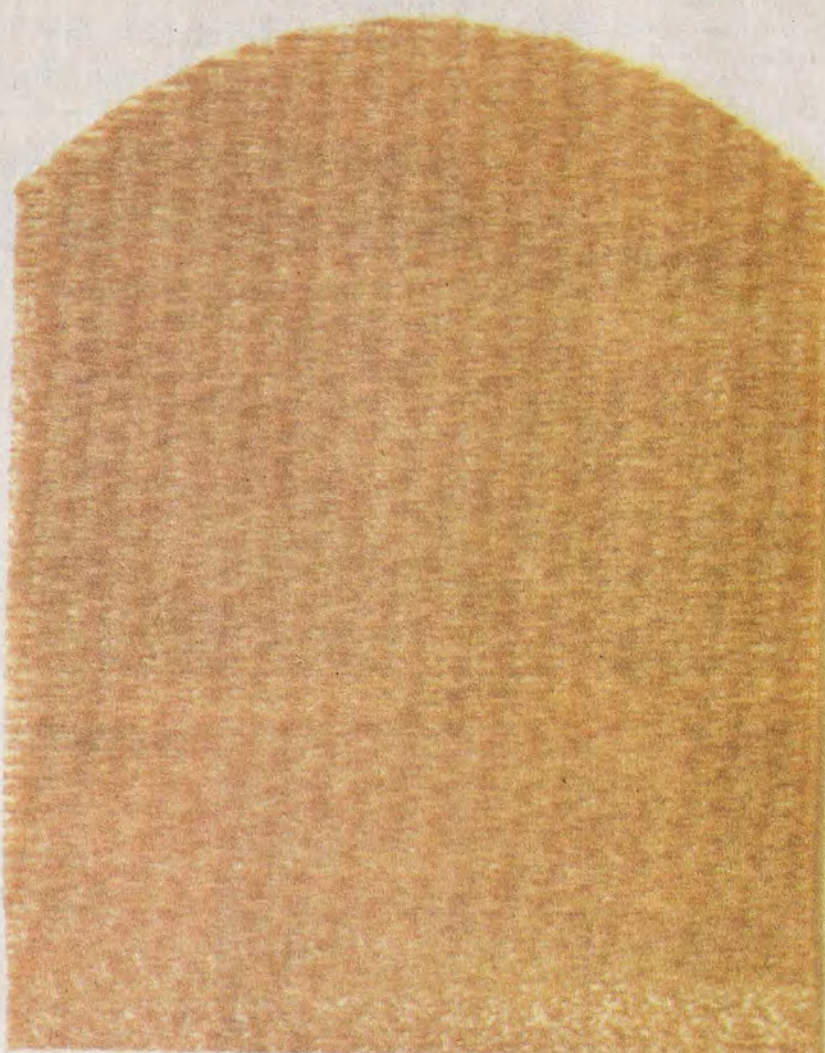
Quotables

"Obviously we've got a lot of work to get done as far as fundamentals are concerned with tackling and blocking, but I think the kids are working and I think they've done everything that we've asked them, which is what you want as a coach."

— UCF FOOTBALL COACH GEORGE O'LEARY ON THE KNIGHTS' SPRING PRACTICES

"This is a big effort and we need more people involved."

— UCF MEN'S BASKETBALL COACH KIRK SPERAW ON THIS OFF-SEASON'S RECRUITMENT



Athletic trainers devote their lives to bringing out the best in student-athletes

MARK LENNOX
Staff Writer

Most people don't know that March is National Athletic Trainer's Month. Most people don't even know what an athletic trainer's job entails.

It is not just a job of taping ankles. Athletic trainers work long hours, and depending on which sport they work with, they could start when the sun comes up and not finish until it sets. Mainly, the trainers provide a service of preparing and aiding athletes to meet their full potential.

"This is a growing program," third-year head trainer Darryl Conway said. "A quickly growing program, in fact. There is so much more to this job than is let on. We deal with injury prevention, treatment, diet and training.

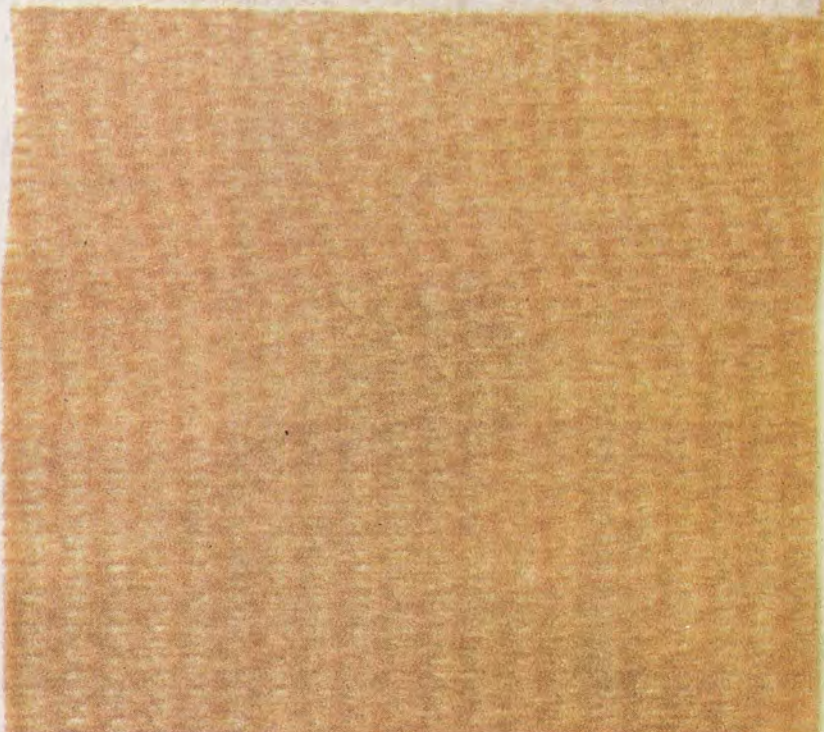
Luckily, this is the best staff I've ever worked with. They are so adaptive and flexible, and I think it's definitely made us closer as a team. Everyone has a home life, two of our staff members just had children, and we still see them here every morning working their tails off."

Conway and Mary Vander Heiden are the football trainers for UCF. Spring football practice officially began this past Saturday, kicking off the hectic schedules for the two trainers and the student staff.

Conway explained that there is one distinct principle that goes along with athletic training: They must love their work.

An average day for Conway begins at about 5:30 a.m. After the daily administration

PLEASE SEE **TRAINERS** ON A7



ATHLETIC TRAINERS

THEY DO MORE THAN JUST STICK IT TO 'EM

Softball sweeps Dolphins

Enders and Sawyer pick up wins as run support increases

MATT DUNAWAY
Senior Staff Writer

The UCF softball team started its second season with a pair of conference wins against Jacksonville, 7-6 and 10-2, on Sunday afternoon.

The Knights put a run on the board in the first to start the doubleheader when pitcher Lindsey Enders helped her own cause with an RBI single, giving UCF an early 1-0 lead.

JU responded in the bottom of the inning when third baseman Sonja Cardarette blasted a home run and the Dolphins took a 3-1 advantage.

The Knights chipped away, and went up 4-3 in the top of the fifth on catcher Jen Whitley's sacrifice fly.

But again JU answered in its half of the inning, putting two points on the board and retaking a 5-4 advantage. However, the Dolphins left the bases loaded as Enders pitched out of a jam, striking out a batter and forcing another to ground out to end the frame.

The Knights cashed in on the opportunity, putting home three runs in the top of the sixth with the help of a JU error. Shortstop Stephanie Best and Enders also picked up RBIs in the inning.

UCF hung on to win 7-6, with Enders going the distance striking out seven.

In the second game, the Knights were off and running, jumping on JU (11-26, 2-4 A-Sun) early and putting home four runs in the top of the first.

UCF (25-11, 2-0 A-Sun) tacked on two runs in the third, fourth and fifth innings, exploding for the 10-2 victory.

Best, third baseman Bryttani Lindheim and pitcher Taylor Sawyer each banded in 3 RBIs for the afternoon.

"Our batting line-up one through nine is solid," manager Renee Luers-Gillispe said. "They just work so hard as a team, and know their responsibilities."

The Knights got another complete game, this one coming from Sawyer. The lefty gave up two runs on five hits and struck out four.

UCF continues its Atlantic Sun schedule, and will head up to Nashville this weekend for doubleheaders against Lipscomb (11-21, 1-7 A-Sun) and Belmont (10-15, 1-5 A-Sun) on Friday and Saturday afternoon.

The Knights don't return to the UCF Softball Complex until April 4.

Scouting Lipscomb and Belmont

The A-Sun newcomers have had a tough time adjusting in their first year of conference play. Lipscomb comes in losers of three straight after getting swept Tuesday afternoon by Gardner-Webb, 2-1 and 5-4. The Bisons are 11-21 overall and have a 1-7 mark in A-Sun action — ahead only of Florida Atlantic and Georgia State in the standings. Those teams have yet to step into conference play.

Offensively the Bisons have been struggling. The team average is at the bottom of the league at .193, and no one on the squad is hitting more than .275 on the season. LU has only earned 76 runs this season and has struck out more than 200 times as a team.

PLEASE SEE **SAWYER** ON A7

Baseball slugs it out with Wildcats



BRETT HART / CENTRAL FLORIDA FUTURE
Junior catcher/first baseman Ryan Bono leads the Knights with seven doubles and a .475 on-base percentage.

Knights trade runs with BCC in extra-innings win

FRANK KOSHEL
Staff Writer

For the first time this season, UCF entered a game nationally ranked. The Knights' 11-inning win against Bethune-Cookman College will do nothing to knock them from their No. 23 ranking.

With a 20-4 record and dominating pitching, UCF baseball received the ranking from *Baseball America* this week.

Having not been ranked in the top 25 since 2002, UCF is ranked one spot behind division rival, and last year's Atlantic Sun champion, Florida Atlantic. In response, UCF per-

10 questions with pitcher Matt Fox, see A7

severed against a pesky Bethune-Cookman team for a 7-6 11-inning win.

UCF (21-4, 8-1 A-Sun) has now won 11-straight games. Lefty reliever Brian Brooks pitched the final five innings against BCC, giving up only one earned run to keep things close for the Knights and to earn the first victory of his young college career.

UCF turned three walks and a hit-by-pitch into a 2-0 first-inning lead. The Knights would add two more runs to their lead with infielder Chandler Rose's two-run single in the top of the third inning. Rose had a strong game, going 3-for-4 with a home run that came in the eighth inning, to give the Knights a 6-5 lead.

After hitting only two home runs in their first 20 games, UCF has hit three home runs in its last five games.

The Wildcats tied the game in the ninth inning as third baseman Ryan Ghianda hit a sacrifice fly to score pinch hitter Luis Turmero, who had reached third on a fielding error by left-fielder Dee Brown. UCF would prevail in the extra innings, though, as pinch hitter Dave Lambert's sacrifice fly scored Clay Timpner for the winning run. Timpner had another solid performance, accumulating a career-high four hits in the game.

UCF returns home for a big weekend series against archrival Stetson (16-6, 6-0 A-Sun). Stetson sits atop the A-Sun, only a half game up on UCF.

The series starts at 6 p.m. tomorrow at Jay Bergman Field for A-Sun bragging rights.

10 questions . . . with Matt Fox

Down and dirty with UCF baseball's top ace of diamonds

ASHLEY BURNS
Sports Editor

Three years ago, Matt Fox had a chance to go pro. Thankfully, Fox took the high road and followed his brother Mike to UCF.

Now a junior, the South Florida native is dominating his opponents. Fox has jumped out to a 6-0 record in seven starts this season.

The crafty right-hander, who split time between pitching and shortstop last season, has also developed quite a nasty slider this time around.

However, what he hasn't developed is a big head.

Future: A few years ago, you were drafted by the Arizona Diamondbacks. Looking back, do you ever regret choosing college over going pro?

Fox: Not at all. I came to college because I wanted to be part of a team and go to Omaha. I don't regret it at all.

Future: In the beginning of the season, you were tabbed the sixth-ranked pitcher in the A-Sun behind guys like FAU's Matt O'Brien and Stetson's Cy McCuen. Is that the kind of fuel that leads you to start a season 6-0 with a .62 ERA?

Fox: I never even knew that actually, and I don't even really worry

about that. All I try to do is go out and try to throw my best and give my team the best chance to win.

Future: You just threw your first complete game shutout of your career. There have been a few times this season, though, that you looked like you could have gone the distance as well. Do you get angry when you're cruising along and you get pulled?

Fox: Maybe a little bit. I think I had 73 pitches through six or seven (innings) and we were just killing Monmouth and we wanted to get some freshmen some work. I was upset because I wanted to go the whole game, but at the same time I'm happy to come out and give the freshmen some innings of work.

Future: In the first game of the LSU series you got a no decision, mainly because of a horrible call at the plate in the first inning. Does that bother you as much as it still bothers me?

Fox: It was a horrible call, but at the same time it's just part of the game. It doesn't really bother me. It's part of pitching. You just have to put things past you. If I could go back I wish he would have called him out.

Future: As well as you've been playing, things are always different when a big rivalry comes around. Do you change anything up as you prepare for Saturday's game against the Hatters?

Fox: Not really, you just try to go at it the same as any other game. I have a lot of respect for Stetson. I know they can swing the bat well. As far as pitching you just have to go into each game thinking it's the

same team.

Future: You played high school ball with Stetson first baseman Bryan Zenchyk. Does it sadden you that he plays for such an evil and vile institution?

Fox: Yeah, actually it does. I would have loved for him to come here and give us some pop. I remember when he was getting recruited I was hoping he would sign here.

Future: Does your brother ever try to bore you with stories of how UCF baseball used to be?

Fox: Yeah, actually he used to tell me how they used to hit for power back then. He's a big fan of this team and this program. He does like to say how good he was, though.

Future: Standard question: You could pitch a perfect game against any team of your choice or spend a night with Britney Spears. Which do you choose?

Fox: I'd pitch a perfect game. There are plenty of girls out there, but it would be my dream to pitch a perfect game.

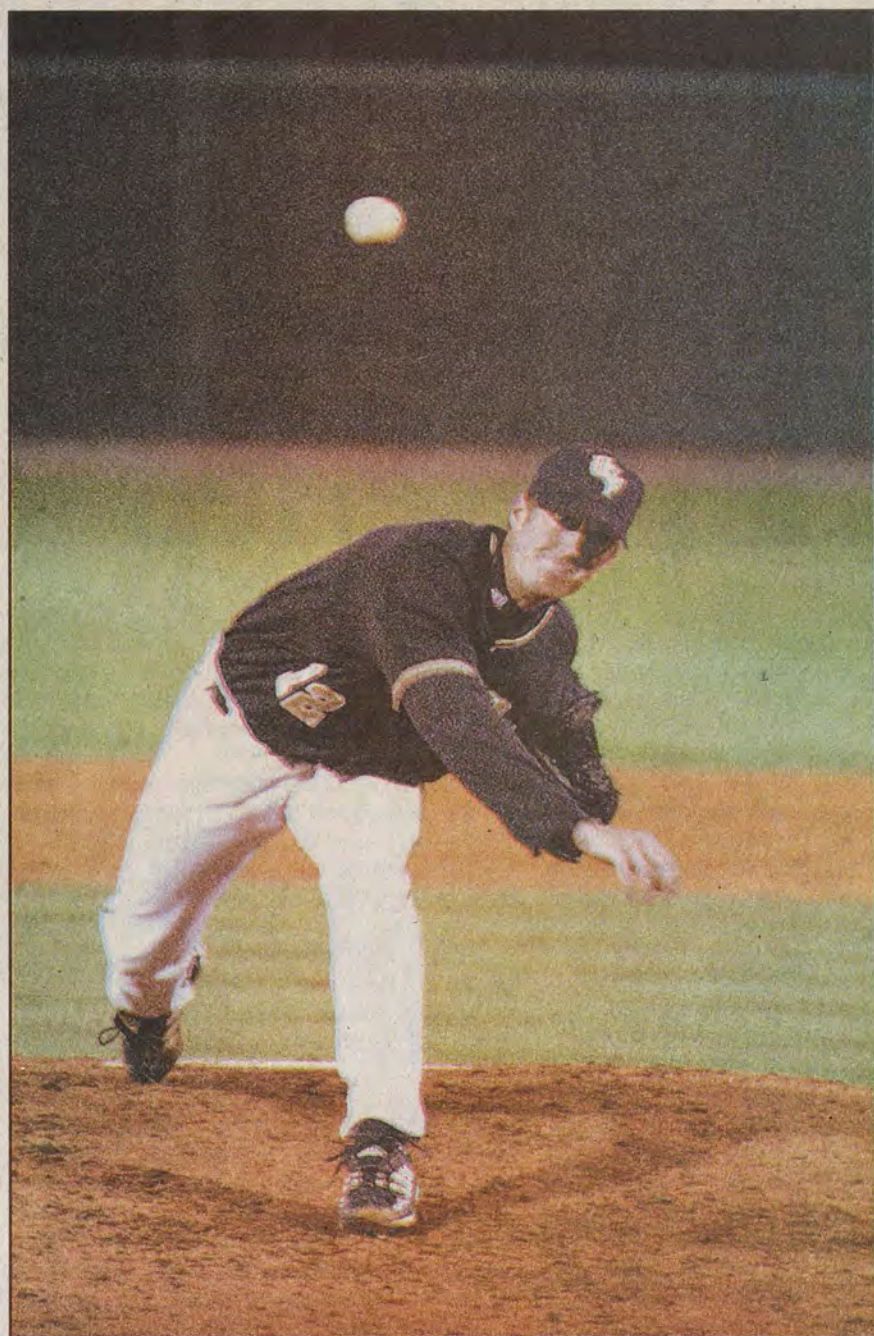
Future: If you could only watch one baseball movie for the rest of your life, what would it be? And if you say *Little Big League* or *Rookie of the Year* this interview is over.

Fox: I'd say "The Rookie."

Future: Finally, do you ever tell yourself that you're the best thing to come out of Coral Springs since Ashley Burns?

Fox: I know I can't compete with you, but I'm doing my best. I tell myself that often.

Future: He might be a good pitcher, but he's a lousy liar.



BRETT HART / CENTRAL FLORIDA FUTURE

Junior Matt Fox dropped his role as a shortstop to become a standout full-time starting pitcher this year.

Trainers face daily challenges on and off the field

FROM A6

work, Conway prepares information for a weekly staff meeting. At about 8 a.m., athletes start rolling in for treatment and weight training. At 1 p.m. the staff begins taping and pre-practice functions, such as preparing the on-field drinks and setting up the field.

Practice kicks off at 3 p.m. and generally lasts until about 5:30 p.m. Barring any practice injuries, Conway and staff finish at about 7 p.m. His 14-hour day winds down at about 8 p.m. after he finishes his meetings with the coaches regarding the players' performances and injury updates.

According to Vander Heiden, through the curriculum about 20 new students per semester are trained at the UCF facilities. These students are not confined to one sport, as they rotate while the semester progresses. However, due to the amount of work it takes to prepare for football camp in August, all students must participate in the football camp.

"The turnover is pretty high," Heiden said. "You tend to get students who realize during football camp that this program and job is not for them. It's a long workday and it is very fast paced. You either learn to love it or you learn to hate it, and you learn real fast. You can't just stand on the sidelines and watch football."

For away games, only nine

trainers are allowed to travel. This adds an elevated level of stress to a job that seems to have enough already.

"Anywhere an athlete goes, we have to go," Heiden said. "It's just a golden rule. If they're in meetings until 9:00 p.m., we're here, too. It goes with the job."

One of the main problems athletic trainers face is educating the players. In their early years, most athletes seem apprehensive to visit the training facilities in fear that they will be looked down upon. The athletes couldn't be more wrong.

The trainers are there to help the athletes, to prevent injury and to maintain an injury so it doesn't become more severe. In essence, the trainers have to be on- and off-field psychologists. Making the athlete comfortable with their surroundings is a key step in maintaining their health and willingness to seek out a trainer.

Along with the on-field and training room duties, there is also plenty of paperwork and office work that goes along with the job. For every treatment that a trainer provides, and every doctor visit that one of the student-athletes attends, there is a detailed log that describes everything that transpires during these treatments.

Kristen Schellhase, who works with softball's athletes, handles the insurance information for the athletic trainers.

Along with these duties, Schellhase also teaches and contributes in the lab work for the athletic training courses. All of these obligations tend to stack up, which is an exacting process.

In the event that there is a doctor's appointment, they will be accompanied by a trainer and will also act as a liaison to the athlete's families. Athletic trainers travel with the team as well and, depending on the schedule, can spend very long stretches of time away from their own families.

"We were on the road for 20 out of the 30 days last month," Schellhase said. "I can't stress enough how dedicated to your job you have to be. You're away from your family, but you're with another family on the road."

Schellhase can attest to the idea of being an on-field psychologist. She has been with softball since its first season in 2002 and has watched the players she assists grow and mature as the seasons progress.

"During their time here, we see these athletes as much if not more than their own families," Schellhase said. "You get close to them. We have a lot of fun, and I really couldn't picture myself doing anything else."

National Athletic Trainer month is a well-deserved honor in the field of athletic training, as the hard work and dedication needed to be successful is nearly immeasurable.



BRETT HART / CENTRAL FLORIDA FUTURE

Assistant athletic trainer Mary Vander Heiden, right, watches as student trainer Shanick Augustin, left, assists pitcher Dana Gilmore at practice.

Sawyer burns Dolphins with arm and hot bat

Senior pitcher Taylor Sawyer improved her record to 7-3 this season, as she held Jacksonville to just one earned run on five hits in UCF's 10-2 victory in game two of Sunday's doubleheader. Sawyer helped out her own cause as she drove in three runs against the Dolphins.



BRETT HART / CENTRAL FLORIDA FUTURE

FROM A6

The bright spot on the squad has been pitching, where Lipscomb's team ERA is fourth in the A-Sun. Senior hurler Sarah Meek is 7-8 on the season and has pitched 14 complete games so far.

UCF should have no problem taking two to start at Tennessee, but the Bisons have been very pesky this season. Five of their seven conference losses have been by less than two runs.

Belmont has lost four in a row, getting swept by both Campbell and Gardner-Webb.

Belmont is just the opposite of its Music City neighbors. The Bruins are just behind UCF in terms of A-Sun batting average in third place.

Their pitching staff is No. 8 with a 3.18 ERA. Catcher LeAnna Crandall and shortstop Sara Peebles sparks the Belmont attack. Both are in the top ten in the league with Crandall hitting a scorching .406 this season.

After winning her first five starts, sophomore pitcher Teresa Jeffers has lost a pair of one-run decisions her last two times to the circle.

One advantage that the Bruins have is that they do not play on Friday, but the Knights have plenty of experience this season playing on back-to-back days.

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OUR STANCE

Both sides goofed with deserted forum

We have a problem. UCF President John Hitt took the time to schedule a meeting with anyone who wanted to see him on Monday. The problem is, nobody showed up.

Well, one person with a question other than a *Future* writer showed up, and a class of students who got extra credit for coming showed up, but they didn't say anything. They just sat in the back and acted like the empty chairs surrounding them — silent and motionless.

The last time Hitt and a select group of his administrative colleagues had a forum like this, on Feb. 4, the room was packed. The same thing happened at the forum before that. People lined up at microphones to address their concerns. They wanted answers — and for the most part, they got answers.

At the forum Monday, apparently only one person had a grievance to air. It makes the idea of four very important people — Hitt, Provost Terry Hickey and Vice Presidents Tom Huddleston and William Merck — setting aside an hour to be grilled by the student body less appealing than it already is.

This forum lasted about 20 minutes, and would've lasted about five if not for a few questions by the *Future* writer.

Each of the previous two

forums lasted well past their scheduled one-hour limit. Administrators graciously continued fielding questions until it seemed everyone's concerns were at least heard.

Combined, these men are paid nearly \$1 million each year. They don't have to make time for students, but do so to keep an important line of communication open.

Why wasn't the room packed? A comparison between Monday's forum and the previous two forums offers two clues.

The earlier sessions were held in the Student Union, in a space that could accommodate more than 100 people. This forum was held in a little-known cafeteria on the south side of campus called the Marketplace. It's a place so small that the writer had trouble finding it even when he was following directions. In addition, the forum was set up in a portion of the cafeteria called the Live Oak Room that holds fewer people than the Student Union space.

The previous forums also took place at midday. This is peak time for students — when the Student Union is crawling with people between classes and on lunch break. Monday's forum began at 5:30 p.m., when most traditional students have gone home to nap.

The venue may have shifted

because the Student Union is often booked, and the administrators may have had trouble reserving a spot so soon after the February forum. So why the time change?

In each of the two previous forums, at least one student complained that the session wasn't held later in the day, when non-traditional students would be available to attend. Essentially, the administrators tried to accommodate that request.

Unfortunately, the idea of serving non-traditional students with a forum of their own was a total flop. See how soon the administration schedules another one at the Marketplace during rush hour.

Two things must happen to keep student relations with Hitt strong. Students need to stop asking for forums later in the day, and request that the administration never go to the Marketplace again. It's too hard to find, and the Live Oak Room is too small a venue for the audience that such an event normally would attract.

The forums are a good idea. But please, President Hitt, stick to what works. Keep them in the Student Union when people are already crowded into it, and you'll get the audience you deserve, not to mention the hard-hitting questions you're used to.



BEN HENDERSON / CENTRAL FLORIDA FUTURE

READER VIEWS

Universal crisis

Once again, the Student Government Association is wasting our tuition money on meaningless events that are not only academically unrelated, but also conveniently scheduled during the week so most working people will not be able to attend and enjoy the things they are paying for.

My complaint comes because at a time where the economy is struggling, where good-paying jobs are hard to come by and monthly payments are rising, working has become vital for surviving our college years.

Paying the rent, car insurance, car payment, food and tuition is hardly an easy task, so we have to work between classes to find the necessary funding to simply keep on going. While we are struggling to make ends meet, some public figures at the university will decide that a tuition increase will be necessary for our own good to fund events that most of us will not be able to attend, or a new gym with fingerprint technology that we will see in the morning while we drive to classes or to work.

I do not need a gym or day at Universal Studios with my fellow UCF students, and most of all I do not need a new tuition increase. If people want those things, let them do so in small groups or personally. Why should our collective tuition, money that I earned working between classes, be wasted on a few lucky ones who have the luxury of not having to work? While I balance my budget at the end of this month, I will see once again that I do not have any money left to leisure, but I know somebody who doesn't have to work enjoyed my leisure money at Universal Studios while I was working.

— JEAN-CHRISTOPHE G. PERRAULT

Respect our president!

I write to agree with the wise John Killilea, who wrote in the March 18 issue that George W. Bush "is our president, elected by us, and he deserves to be respected" [Reader Views, "Bush deserves it"].

I, in contrast to my conservative brethren, have been outraged since I was young in the late 1950s, when Southern states didn't follow

presidential orders to racially integrate public facilities, and I was even more infuriated by *Saturday Night Live's* constant mockery of President Gerald Ford, portraying him as some kind of goofball (on what basis?).

You can imagine how angry I was that people protested against President Richard Nixon; if I may paraphrase Killilea, he was our president, and they should have respected him! ("The Plumbers" and Watergate and the enemies list and Vietnam and Laos and Cambodia and Chile and East Timor aside.)

Of course, President Bush did not win the popular vote. Nonetheless, history will likely record him as elected, so respect him!

I was only further disappointed when my Republican compatriots so fervently derided President Bill Clinton for his adulterous sexual activities and lying when deposed about it. I didn't vote for him, but the man was elected, and I really couldn't abide Rush Limbaugh's constant criticism. (We could take a page from our Chinese allies who jail traitorous dissidents.)

My only complaint is that Mr. Killilea noted that Bush's "approval ratings are above 50 percent right now ... so obviously those anti-Bush people are in the minority." It would seem that not only are such poll results difficult to corroborate, but viewing even a 55-45 split as making "them" an "obvious minority" lends credence to that John Stuart Mill quote: "While it is true that not all conservatives are stupid, it is also true that most stupid people are conservatives."

— WALTER G. SMACHTSEN

Is thinking too much work?

Facts. Remember that word? We used to use it to help us understand things that troubled us or sometimes intrigued us in some way.

Now, with the help of our president, we no longer need these things called "facts." They only get in the way of our thinking. And who needs to think, anyway? But wait, have facts come back like fashionable imitation bell bottoms?

PLEASE SEE **READER VIEWS** ON A9

OUR STANCE

White House attacks one of its own

The Bush administration made its unofficial position official on Monday, saying that its former counterterrorism chief knows less about terrorism than the administration does.

This strong reaction, coming from several top officials like National Security Adviser Condoleezza Rice and Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld, comes after the release of a book, *Against All Enemies*, by Richard Clarke, who advised the Bush administration on counterterrorism before and after the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001.

Clarke had served in top positions with the same goal of stopping terrorism since 1998, when President Bill Clinton appointed him. Last year, he resigned from the Bush administration after he was passed up for the job of deputy secretary for the Department of Homeland Security.

"It's not clear he understands what the global war on terrorism was about," a Pentagon spokesman said — an odd statement considering the White House employed him for that specific skill.

In his book, Clarke accuses the administration of ignoring his warnings that Al Qaeda was planning an attack on American soil, and of poor handling of the war on terror following the attack.

The administration has responded by accusing Clarke of having a partisan agenda. Considering the administration's you're-either-with-us-or-against-us diplomacy, it's easy to see why.

Be it by coincidence or design, the release of Clarke's book more than seven months before the presidential election doesn't seem like the best strategy to undermine the president. And the administration has released the hounds on Clarke, essentially belittling his abilities as a counterterrorism expert after relying upon them for years. On CNN's *American Morning*, Rice rebutted Clarke: "This retrospective rewriting of the history of the first several months of the administration is not helpful."

Funny thing is, there really hasn't been a "history" written about pre-war and pre-Sept. 11 intelligence — at least not one that's been widely published. The Bush administration has failed to cooperate with the recently formed independent investigation into intelligence gathering leading up to the war in Iraq. Key documents regarding information on the existence of weapons of mass destruction still haven't been turned over to the investigative commission.

The due date for the commission's report is well after the

presidential election. Democrats argue that the administration set the deadline deliberately so that if the report turns out to contain bad news for Bush, it won't affect his chances for re-election. Republicans don't seem to care that the report might reveal their man lied about his reasons for going to war, as long as Bush keeps his hold on the presidency.

Clarke describes his book as history how he remembers it. One such memory involves a member of the counterterrorism team, Brian Sheridan, pleading with the White House to continue to focus on Al Qaeda. According to Clarke, despite his conferences with Rice, Rumsfeld and Vice President Dick Cheney, none of them pursued Al Qaeda to the level that the counterterrorism chief suggested.

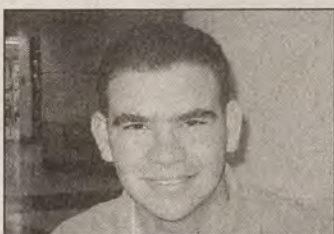
White House spokesman Scott McLellan dismissed the book as a deliberately timed campaign attack. Others assert that Clarke hopes to gain the favor of Democratic presidential hopeful John Kerry and win a cabinet position, despite Clarke being a registered Republican.

Clarke's former friends and colleagues in the Bush administration would like the American public to think Clarke is lying. It doesn't come as a surprise, then, that he says he plans to never work in government again.

MAN ON THE STREET

THE WORD AROUND CAMPUS

'What question would you like to ask President John Hitt?'



JOAO LIMA
Information technology

"What are you doing to improve the number of classes offered during the summer?"



STACEY BECKER
Social work

"Do you think that sign language should be considered a foreign language?"



SABRINA ROOPNARINE
Art education

"Where's all the money?"



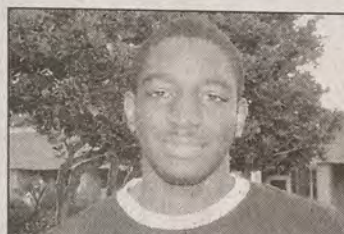
JULES ABBOSH
Micro/molecular biology

"What can you do to lower housing rates?"



MIMI JEAN
Social work

"Why don't we have less adjunct professors and more real professors?"



CLIFF COLE
Business

"What are you going to do about the parking situation?"

— COMPILED BY TEJ OKUN

Central Florida Future

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READER VIEWS

FROM A8

No, it can't be. I love not having to think. I love listening to Bush and believing everything he says, without question or regard for truth.

Lately, everything I believed in has been questioned and downplayed as lies, though. Could these accusations be coming from an extreme left-wing group run by Hillary Clinton? It appears these statements have come from top level people such as David Kay, the former United Nations chief weapons inspector, who said, "There were and are no WMDs in Iraq." Former Treasury Secretary Paul O'Neal came out publicly saying the Bush administration planned to attack Iraq even before Sept. 11, 2001. Mohamed el Baradei, head of the International Atomic Energy Agency, publicly came out and said that he was pretty convinced that Iraq "had not resumed its nuclear weapons program."

The most shocking of all are the recent comments from Richard Clarke, the ex-White House anti-terror adviser, who said Bush wanted to attack Iraq because of Sept. 11 and tried to create a link between the two, adding, he [the president] ignored Al Qaeda threats before Sept. 11 and had the chance to take Osama Bin Laden out. Unfortunately, most people still believe Saddam Hussein attacked us on Sept. 11.

We put so much faith in Bush but not so much in ourselves to stand up for what we feel is right. Sooner or later will we know the truth. I think Mohamed el Baradei said it best when he replied to Dick Cheney's negative comments toward the issue by saying, "history is going to be the judge."

— MATTHEW COOKE

Light before election day

This is a letter in response to the letter titled "Darkest before dawn" [Reader Views, March 22]. I believe the writer is not giving the voters of

Spain enough credit for electing the Socialist Party.

The writer believes somehow that Jose Maria Aznar's Partido Popular was a shoo-in before the bombings. It was only just before the bombings that the Partido Popular enjoyed a 5 percent lead in the polls in what was otherwise a split electorate.

The writer concludes that the newly elected Socialist government "wishes to give Al Qaeda its horrific victory on a silver platter by announcing that Spain will be abandoning its allies and pulling out its troops from Iraq."

However, the Socialist Party campaigned on this issue throughout the election and the new prime minister, Jose Luis Rodriguez Zapatero, has remarked that he wanted to concentrate on the terrorist threat and not Iraq, which he believed was a distraction from the true threat that Al Qaeda posed.

Only time will tell if Zapatero is serious about this change in policy or if he is attempting to appease Al Qaeda. This idea that the Iraq war and terrorism are two separate things is a salient issue in Europe and not unheard of in this country.

The writer then ends his letter on this statement: "We have to ask ourselves if Al Qaeda would like to see a regime change in America this coming election."

Since John Kerry has already stated that he intends to stay the course in Iraq, are the voters in the United States supposed to re-elect Bush just to spite Al Qaeda? This notion is ridiculous and a rejection of our long-standing democratic principles.

I think the question we must really ask ourselves is, are we going to accept popular democracy even if we as individuals are not pleased with the results?

— ROBERT CASSANELLO

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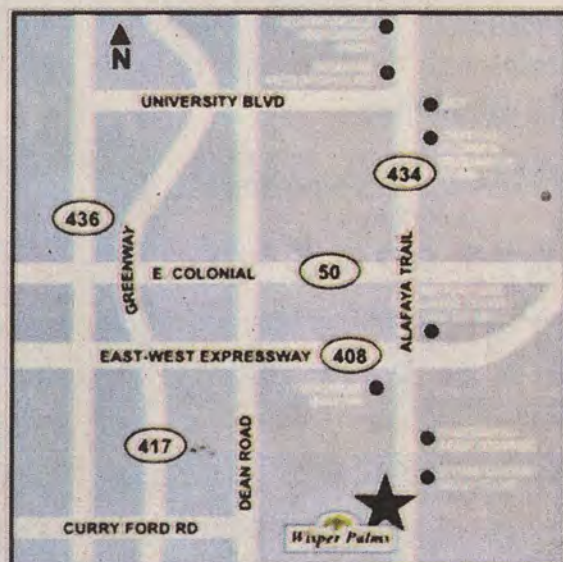
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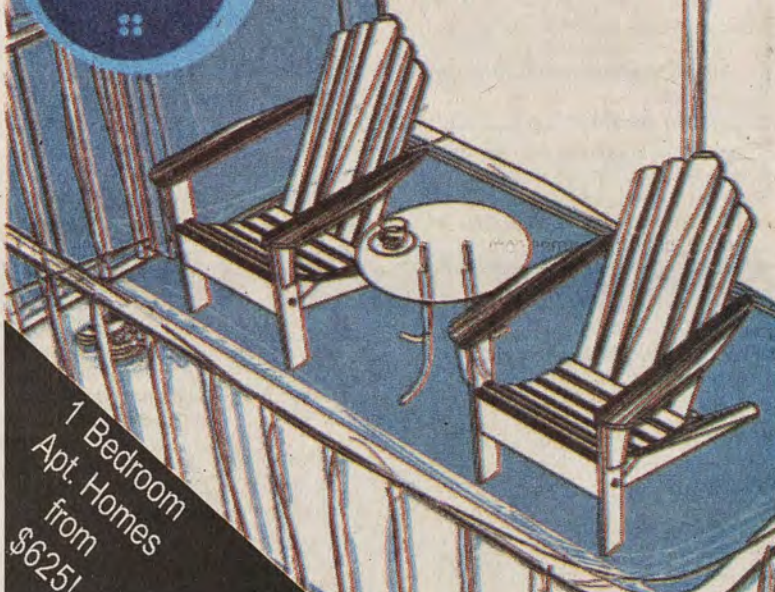
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to UCF off McCulloch. Home fully furn.
except bedrooms. \$470/mo. incl.
utilities, W/D & Roadrunner.
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area. \$400 per mo. Call
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Roommates2 clean, quiet and NS roommates
wanted. 3/2 home in UCF/Suncrest
area. Unfurn. bds. \$525/mo. Incl.
util., W/D, cable, phone, and scnd
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321-239-4850 or e-mail
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Please call Chris 407-702-5359F student looking for 3 female
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UCF. Nice, quiet neighborhood. Ample
bdrms. w/ walk-in closets. New W/D to
share. \$450/mo. incl util. ASAP.
Contact Natalia at 407-782-2375 or
naty1984@yahoo.comRoommate needed for 2/2 in Tivoli Apts.
Avail. Aug. 1st. F & upperclassman pref.
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Katie at 407-739-2182.**250 FOR RENT:**
RoommatesF roommate needed in house 15 min
from UCF. House furn, bdrm not. Flex.
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Ford area. Furnished. \$500 incl. util.
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\$375/mo plus shared util. Call Kent at
407-497-8213.ROOMMATE NEEDED:
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vaulted ceilings. \$395/mo + 1/2
elec/cable. Dog OK, no cats. Please call
Kristen for more info @ 407-657-75741 or 2 quiet NS roommates needed to
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incl. Call Alissa at 407-340-9460.**275 FOR RENT:**
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1 Sri Lankan
language
6 Lacking strength
10 Advanced dogs
14 Maytag rival
15 Crucifix
inscription
16 "Lady Jane Grey"
dramatist
17 Robin Hood's
love
19 Trebek or Karras
20 Receded
21 Decorative bars
23 Decorative wall
brackets
26 Multiple nouns
27 Tithes amounts
28 Baking utensil
29 Dustin in
"Midnight
Cowboy"
30 Ms. Lollotrigida
31 Writer Ferber
34 Cigar dropping
35 Branch
managers?
38 Be unwell
39 Bug repellent
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42 The best!
44 Gracefully
delicate
46 Use one's wits
47 Italian lover
49 Pacific salmon
50 Temporary
support
51 Squander
52 Hamburg's river
53 Keyless-entry
phrase?
58 Fam. members
59 Take a break
60 Severity
61 Borscht
ingredient
62 See ya!
63 Smile derisively© 2004 Tribune Media Services, Inc.
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03/25/04

6 Performs an
electrician's job
7 Writer Bagnold
8 Coach
Parseghian
9 Shakespearean
tragedy
10 Grasslands
11 Eggs Benedict
sauce
12 Live
13 Genders
18 Vpocian and
Lincoln
22 Furrow
23 Valuable violin,
for short
24 Come to a halt
25 Right away
26 Sap sources
28 Little finger
30 Zest
32 "Star Trek"
co-star
33 By oneself
36 Became
insufficient
37 Phantoms

3/22 solutions

40 Most tangy
43 Gathers greedily
45 Worldwide sports
grp.
46 Singer Diana
47 Sour-tasting, old-
style
48 Bobbettes hit
49 December VIP
51 Compass point
54 Garden sphere
55 Grow old
56 Cohort of Curly
57 Miss a step

Please see solutions in next issue — Mon. 3/29

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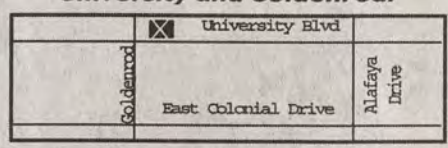
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www.ucfathletics.com**Friday, March 26th - 6 p.m. -**- Baseball v. Stetson - Hit a home run by coming
out to Jay Bergman Field (behind the UCF Arena)
and cheering on your Golden Knights. Admission is
FREE for all students with a valid UCF I.D.**Saturday, March 27th - 8 a.m. -**- Youth Sports Festival - to sign your child up, log onto
www.ucfalumni.com or call the Alumni Association at
407-UCF-ALUM.**Saturday, March 27th - 10 a.m. -**- MTV Casting Call at Jay Bergman Field prior to the
Baseball game v. Stetson. For more information, email
opencasting@aol.com.**Saturday, March 27th - Noon -**- Baseball v. Stetson. Hit a home run by coming
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compete in some great old fashioned baseball v. Stetson
live on the Sunshine Network. Admission is FREE for all
students with a valid UCF I.D. All other fans pay only \$5
for adults and \$3 for children and seniors age 55 and
older.**Tuesday, March 30th - 6 p.m. -**- Baseball v. Bethune-Cookman College. Come out
to Jay Bergman Field (behind the UCF Arena) and
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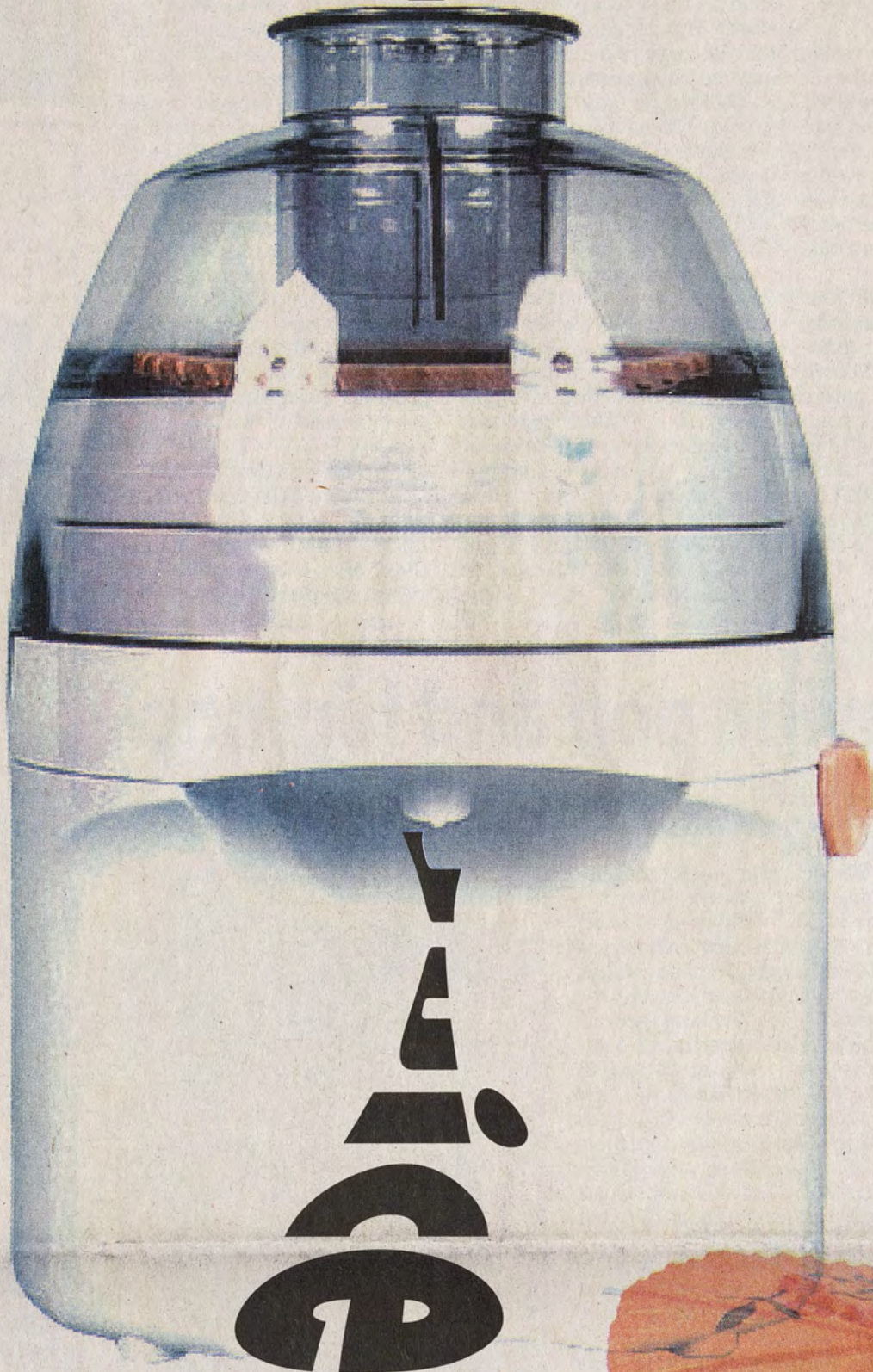
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Kevin Smith

We spoke to the famous Jersey boy for a minute and six seconds.



SEE MOVIES, PG. 4

Knockers

Satisfying our breast quota for the week, a staffer goes for implants.



SEE MISCELLANEOUS, PG. 8

Kickoff

Asst. editor Sean Hunting debuts his new column. But for your own good, don't ask about the donkey.

SEE RAMBLINGS, PG. 11



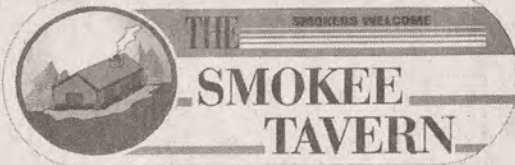
SHARON PARE
Staff Writer

So you ask, what's the big deal with Islands of Adventure? Well, for starters, it happens to have some of the best roller

As corny as "Choose your FATE — Fire or Ice" sounds, you'll get off of this roller coaster as if you had just shot down three Jager Bombs. If you're looking for a little break from the madness, The Flying Unicorn is a great ride for "kicks" and giggles. Seriously. Don't be surprised if you catch yourself screaming down this kiddie roller coaster. It's not what meets the eye.

When you get into Toon Lagoon, do not be discouraged by Dudley Do-Right's Ripsaw Falls. It is not at all similar to Disney's Splash Mountain. The main thrills of this ride, which differ from its rival and novice Splash Mountain, is the drop that feels as if it falls straight down, while the log does not have any harnesses or bars to secure you in. All in all, that is what makes the ride as frightening as it is — the thought that you basically can fall out of your log mid-drop. In this certain theme of the park, drenched seems to be the key word. Move on to Popeye and Bluto's Bilge-Rat Barges if you're looking for some

So there you go; take advantage of what SGA petitioned to get approved for the students. They spent approximately \$140,000 on this party. We want to beat UF, don't we?


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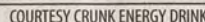
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TERESA CAMPOSECO
Staff Writer

UCF alumni Israel Vasquetelle, owner of hip-hop trade publication *Insomniac Magazine*, said marketers seek out rappers because of their name recognition and

And the number of people in this well-defined market segment is sizable, accord-



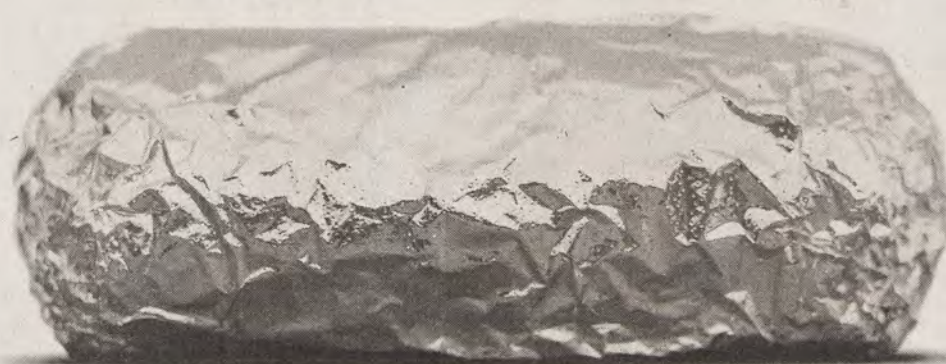
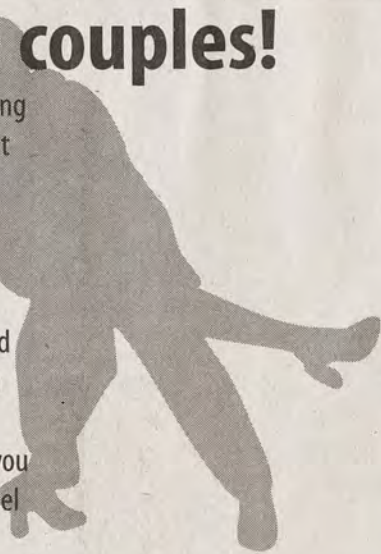
PLEASE SEE **NELLY** ON i10

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— JOHN THOMASON

The indie wants to follow along UCF's most hilarious couple at the Prom, held April 9 at the Recreation and Wellness Center. Must be willing to dress '80s and pose for zany photographs. Send a 50-word essay to indie@ucfnews.com on why you're the most hilarious couple at UCF, and you have a chance to be our model lovebirds!



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happenings

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A weeping heart and a cauliflower

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JOHN THOMASON
Indie Editor

Plays being converted into movies is a pretty standard practice in both Hollywood and the independent cinema, but movies re-imagined as plays — now there's a rarity. Opening this week and running through April 24, Orlando's Theatre Downtown on North Orange Avenue will present *Requiem for a Heavyweight*, one of those oh-so-rare movie-to-stage adaptations.

However, if we really want to be precise (and who doesn't?), *Requiem for a Heavyweight* is actually a TV-special-turned-movie-turned-play, as *Twilight Zone* host Rod Serling wrote the original screenplay in 1956 as a

TV drama to be broadcast live (Yes, there was a time when networks other than CNN actually showed live television). In a rare moment of literary power overtaking cinematic clout, the TV-movie was marketed as "Rod Serling's *Requiem for a Heavyweight*," not director Alvin Rakoff's.

Six years later, *Requiem* was made into a theatrical feature with Anthony Quinn playing the boxer in the lead role previously acted to great success by Jack Palance. The additional star power of Jackie Gleason and Mickey Rooney helped bring more notoriety to Serling's underrated story.

Requiem should be as effective today as it was in the '50s, as it examines timeless and universal themes of old age, loneliness, love, obsession and corruption. A aged boxer takes a blow that cripples his professional career, but boxing is his entire world. Left confused and lonely, without any help from his greedy management, he flounders in bars, tries to get another job and falls in love, but he soon realizes his only topic of con-

versation is boxing.

Because of the theater's inherent restrictions, sports-themed stories don't translate well to the stage. But this is far from a play about boxing. Serling was never out to make a *Raging Bull*; in fact, there is not a single professional fight scene in his original screenplay.

If nothing else, the play is notable for going against the grain of the Serling norm: there is no surreality, no supernatural elements, no literary sleights of hand. It's just a simple, humane tale of a desperate man at the end of his rope, a sad and heart-rending yarn that relies so greatly on performance, it's hard to believe a stageplay wasn't performed sooner.

The 125-seat, off-Broadway-style Theatre Downtown is located at 2113 N. Orange Ave. and has previously presented such esteemed plays as *A Doll's House* and *Twelve Angry Men*. Tickets range from \$12 to \$15, and \$35 for Saturday's 15th anniversary performance only. For information on the cast and crew, go to <http://www.theatredowntown.net>.



COURTESY THEATREDOWNTOWN.NET

EVENTS



Cutthroat dog competition

The canine population in Orlando should have no fear of boredom. First there was dog double dating, then Mardi Gras for dogs, and now they even have their own fair, the Doggie Jamboree Spring Jam, to keep pets and owners entertained. Dogs are able to compete and win prizes in a variety of events, including an obstacle course and a Scooby Doo look-a-like costume contest. The spring Jam is held Saturday and Sunday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. at West Orange Dog Park. Costs range from \$10 to \$20.

Like most overpriced and frankly ridiculous activities, the Spring Jam is for charity, therefore justifying the inanity. Sponsored by Doggie Jamboree Inc., it will benefit Pet Rescue by Judy. Pet Rescue by Judy has rehabilitated and found homes for over 300 abandoned and abused animals in the past year and, unlike many shelters, they never kill their furry guests.

Under Milk Wood

March 26 to April 11
Call for times, \$14 to \$22
Mad Cow Theatre, Stage Right
105 S. Magnolia Ave.
407-297-8788

Bridge to Terabithia

March 26 to April 18
Call for times, \$16
Orlando Repertory Theatre
1001 E. Princeton St.
407-896-7365

Requiem for a Heavyweight

March 26 to April 24
Call for times, \$12 to \$35,
Theatre Downtown
2113 N. Orange Ave.
407-841-0083

Showtime at the Apollo

March 26, 8 p.m., \$27 to \$38
King Center for Performing Arts
3865 N. Wickham Road
Melbourne
321-242-2219

Doggie Jamboree Spring Jam

March 27, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
\$10 to \$20
West Orange Dog Park
Windermere & Marchall Farms Rd.
Winter Garden
888-908-0825

Plant sale

March 27 and 28, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Free
Harry P. Leu Gardens
1920 N. Forest Ave.
407-246-2620

Wild About Florida

March 27, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., \$8.75
Central Florida Zoological Park
3577 N. U.S. Hwy 17-92
Sanford
407-323-4450

Bowfire

March 27, 8 p.m., \$25 to \$35
King Center for Performing Arts
3865 N. Wickham Road
Melbourne
321-242-2219

The Exonerated ITAL

March 30 to April 2, 8 p.m.
\$18 to \$49
Carr Performing Arts Center
401 W. Livingston St.
407-849-2020

Universal Knights

April 2, 7 p.m.
Free for UCF students
Universal Studios
Islands of Adventure
407-823-2191

CAMPUS

Annual Fashion Show

March 26, 7 p.m. to 9 p.m., free
Student Union
Pegasus Ballroom
407-823-6411

Late Knights: Bright Lights Big City

March 27, 9 p.m. to 2 a.m.
Free for UCF students
Student Union
407-823-6471

SHOWS



Calexico

Bust out your boots and dust off your jeans, Calexico is coming to Will's Pub at 9 p.m. today. You can catch the Tucson, Ariz., alt-country band for the low price of \$12.

They have the distinction of being one of the only bands whose name is what their music sounds like. Nirvana sure didn't sound like harmony, but Calexico's sound really is a mixture of California and Mexico.

They're touring in support of their latest laid-back album, *Feast of Wire*.

Mest, Fall Out Boy, Matchbook Romance, Dynamite Boy (pop/punk)

March 25, 6:30 p.m., \$14
House of Blues
Downtown Disney West Side
407-934-2583

Phantom Planet, Mellow Drone, Lola Ray (rock)

March 25, 8 p.m., \$15
The Social
54 N. Orange Ave.
407-246-1419

Calexico, Ester Drang (indie)

March 25, 9 p.m., \$12
Will's Pub
1850 N. Mills Ave.
407-898-5070

MarsILL, DJ Captain Celsius, Chairman Hao, DJ Stranger, X:144, Nuridians, Binkis (hip-hop)

March 25, 9 p.m., \$8 to \$10
Back Booth
37 W. Pine St.
407-999-2570

Flogging Molly, Throw Rag (punk)

March 26, 7:30 p.m., \$12 to \$15
House of Blues
Downtown Disney West Side
407-934-2583

Thrice, Poison the Well, Darkest Hour, Moments in Grace (hardcore)

March 26, 6 p.m., \$14
The Social
54 N. Orange Ave.
407-246-1419

Ruby James, Big Ten-4, The Every Others (rock)

March 26, 10:30 p.m., \$5
The Social
54 N. Orange Ave.
407-246-1419

Artimus Pyle, Railedriver, Railedriver, New Mexican Disaster Squad (hard rock)

March 26, 9 p.m., \$5
Will's Pub
1850 N. Mills Ave.
407-898-5070

Junkie Rush (rock)

March 26, 10 p.m., \$3 to \$5
Copper Rocket Pub
106 Lake Ave.
407-645-0069

Sugar Gliders (blues)

March 26, 9 p.m., \$3
Underground Bluz UCF
12261 University Blvd.
407-482-4141

Deadspot, Filth Tree, Midst of Zool, Harm's Way (metal)

March 26, 9 p.m., \$5
The Haven
6700 Aloma Ave.
407-673-2712

Plusses and Ups, Harbinger Trio (jazz)

March 26, 10 p.m., \$4
The Peacock Room
1321 N. Mills Ave.
407-228-0048

12-Twenty (rock)

March 26, 10 p.m., \$5
Hard Rock Vault
8437 International Drive
407-599-7625

The Crystal Method, Hyper (electronic)

March 27, 9 p.m., \$25 to \$55
House of Blues
Downtown Disney West Side
407-934-2583

Twilight Singers (rock)

March 27, 9 p.m., \$12 to \$15
The Social
54 N. Orange Ave.
407-246-1419

Chairman Hao, DJ Stranger, X:144 (hip-hop showcase)

March 27, 9 p.m., \$5
Will's Pub
1850 N. Mills Ave.
407-898-5070

Total Chaos, Resilience (punk)

March 27, 6 p.m., \$8 to \$10
Will's Pub
1850 N. Mills Ave.
407-898-5070

Hot Rod Walt, Psycho Devilles (rock)

March 27, 10 p.m., \$3 to \$5
Copper Rocket Pub
106 Lake Ave.
407-645-0069

Donna Summer (pop)

March 27, 7:45 p.m.
\$53.95 (\$39.95 after 5 p.m.)
Universal Studios
Universal Orlando
407-363-8000

Heidi and the El Cats (jazz)

March 27, 9 p.m., \$3
Underground Bluz UCF
12261 University Blvd.
407-482-4141

The Hex Tremors, Hippy Gone Wrong (rock)

March 27, 10 p.m., \$5
Bodhisattva Social Club
23 S. Court Ave.
407-872-3136

Overdale, The Little, Folly, The Banner (rock)

March 27, 6 p.m., \$5
Back Booth
37 W. Pine St.
407-999-2570

Padallock Grafts, Telephone, Conolrad (rock)

March 27, 9 p.m., \$5
Back Booth
37 W. Pine St.
407-999-2570

Paul Sanders, Marc with a "c" (rock)

March 27, 9 p.m., no cover
Austin Coffee and Film
929 Fairbanks Ave.
407-975-3364

Bleeding Through, Death by Stereo, Himsa (rock)

March 28, 6 p.m., \$10
The Social
54 N. Orange Ave.
407-246-1419

Carbon Leaf (rock)

March 29, 8 p.m., \$7
The Social
54 N. Orange Ave.
407-246-1419

Roach Motel, The Amputees (punk)

March 29, 6 p.m., \$5 to \$8
Will's Pub
1850 N. Mills Ave.
407-898-5070

Britney Spears, Kelis, Skye Sweetnam (pop)

March 29, 7:30 p.m.
\$39.50 to \$75.50
TD Waterhouse Center
600 W. Amelia St.
407-849-2020

Heavenly Noise, SPS, Labtob (electronic)

March 29, 9 p.m., \$5
Back Booth
37 W. Pine St.
407-999-2570

Mr. Lif, Akrobatik, MURS, DJ Faks One, SA Smash, Hangar 18 (hip-hop)

March 30, 8 p.m., \$15 to \$17
The Social
54 N. Orange Ave.
407-246-1419

Slipknot, Fear Factory, Chimaira (metal)

March 30, 6:30 p.m., \$28
Hard Rock Live
CityWalk at Universal Orlando
407-351-5483

Ignid, Asphalt, Landing on Land (rock)

March 31, 9 p.m., \$5
The Social
54 N. Orange Ave.
407-246-1419

L.I.F.T., Gate 22, Ion Sift (metal)

March 31, 9 p.m., \$6
Onyx
100 W. Livingston St.
407-839-0013

ART

Leesburg Fine Arts Festival

March 27 and March 28
9 a.m. to 6 p.m., free
Downtown Leesburg
Main Street and Towne Square
352-365-0232

Juried SCC Student Art Exhibition (opening ceremonies)

March 30, 5 p.m. to 7 p.m., free
Seminole Community College
Fine Arts Gallery
100 Weldon Blvd., Sanford
407-328-2039

UPCOMING

Indigo Girls (rock)

April 1, 8 p.m., \$27.50 to \$32.50
Hard Rock Live
1000 Universal Studios Plaza
407-351-5483

Modest Mouse CD listening party

April 1, 8 p.m., free
The Social
54 N. Orange Ave.
407-246-1419

Spring Fiesta in the Park

April 3 and April 4
10 a.m. to 5 p.m., free
Lake Eola Park
North Rosalind Avenue and
East Washington Street
407-649-3152

movies

for the week of March 25 - 31

Director interview — sort of

A minute and six seconds with Kevin Smith

Bonowicz shocks us all by not asking an Affleck question

BRETT RYAN BONOWICZ
Staff Writer

In promotion for his new film *Jersey Girl*, filmmaker Kevin Smith participated in a college conference call at 2 p.m. March 9. My editor, John Thomason, was gracious enough (or lazy enough) to allow me to be the participant for the indie during this call.

Thomason told me there would be only two other people in on this conference call, so I spent the night before the call reading and re-reading all of the *Jersey Girl* and writing 15 original questions. I figured because there were only two other people in on the call, I'd have time to ask maybe eight or nine of them.

Finally, it was March 9. I had my usual breakfast (a bowl of cereal, a banana and a Diet Coke) and spent the morning practicing for my first confer-

ence call. I decided the night before that it would be best not to take the call from my clunky, crappy Verizon cellular phone. Instead, I would take the call from the clunky, crappy *Central Florida Future* office phone. It was, there that Thomason told me I could also set up a contraption with which to record the call.

With 10 minutes to go before the call, Thomason realized he didn't know how to attach the recording device to the phone. Quickly, he tried to find someone with the hands-on experience to hook up this contraption before the 2 p.m. deadline. As Thomason and I struggled to plug phone line to phone jack and tape recorder to handset, *Future* editor Alex Babcock strolled in. With a creepily slow, quiet pace that is altogether him, Alex slowly, surely and without a hint of despair in his eyes, expertly set up the rather simplistic phone-recording device. We tested it one minute before the conference call. It worked.

By the third question, I realized there were more than two people in on this conference

call. And not only were there more than two, they were from all over the United States. The University of San Francisco. The University of Cincinnati. It was almost 20 minutes before I actually heard from someone from a college within Florida. Thomason was a liar. I grew listless as I waited for the moderator to speak my name. Thomason had come back with a small pizza from a local gas station. Alex continued doing something on a computer nearby.

I listened to question after question as my peers asked asinine questions posed countless times before. "Why aren't Jay and Silent Bob in this movie?" "If you could be any comic book character, who would you be?" "Can you give any advice to up and coming filmmakers?" "Should I go to film school?" I half expected one of them to ask Smith if they should break up with their significant other and then follow it up with asking what they should eat at T.G.I. Fri-



COURTESY MIRAMAX FILMS

days later that night. I sat there listening, with Thomason eating his lunch over my shoulder. In the back corner, Alex dabbled with his computer. I never did find out what he was doing. Finally, the moderator continued his laborious breathing and said (the following is transcribed from the tape and appears in its entirety, unedited):

Moderator: You have a

question from the [Unintelligible] of Brett [Ryan] Bonowicz, University of Central Florida.

Brett Ryan Bonowicz: Hi Kevin, how are you?

Kevin Smith: Good, how are you?

BRB: Good, great. Um, I was wondering in preparation for *Jersey Girl*, did you look at any films before shooting?

KS: Um, I watched *Kramer vs. Kramer* a few times, 'cause there's a movie where they use, um, a younger, a young kid very effectively. And one of my all time favorite, uh, family melodramas, this movie called *Nothing in*

Common...

BRB: Mm hmm.

KS: With Tom Hanks and Jackie Gleason. Um, those are the two that I kinda zeroed in on before heading off to make our movie.

BRB: All right, and then I was also wondering since, uh, Scott Mosier is taking a year off ...

PLEASE SEE 2 QUESTIONS ON 15

Pros and cons

Jersey Girl sucks

Smith shows writing weaknesses in sappy romantic dramedy



Jersey Girl (PG-13)

Comedy / drama
<http://www.jerseygirl-movie.com>

JOHN THOMASON
Indie Editor

Despite their many flaws, the consistently witty writing in Kevin Smith's films make even his lesser efforts — like the overambitious *Dogma* and the over-plotted *Mallrats* — still entertaining. His films have never been well-directed, however, and no amount of clever dialogue (of which Smith has had in droves) could save the technical ineptitude. All this has changed with the release of his sixth film, *Jersey Girl*, in which the direction and cast are the finest of Smith's career. If only his screenplay was good, or even decent for that matter, we would have an admirable film.

If you're reading this, you probably already know the plot, so I won't elaborate on Smith's hackneyed story. Suffice it to say that if you've seen one "Workaholic and/or immature man transformed by cute little boy/girl" movie (See *About a Boy*, *Kolya*), you've seen them all, and the forgettable *Jersey Girl* is indistinguishable from this breed.

Jersey Girl is in many ways the anti-*Chasing Amy*. *Amy*, which is Smith's best work and one of the best indie films of the late '90s, was driven by its pragmatism, provocation, bluntness and caustic humor, never falling into a Hollywood-style happy ending. With *Jersey Girl*, Smith has made that audience-pandering Hollywood dramedy

his fans have been fearing ever since the director concluded his "Jersey Trilogy."

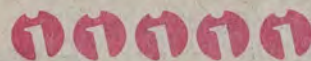
Smith is clearly out of his element at the times of his characters' emotional turmoil, though his writing flaws are disguised well by Ben Affleck's second-best performance (behind *Amy*) and Smith's new-found directorial style. Numerous dissolves, smart cuts and excellent use of contrast in lighting during the film's tender moments all show Smith's blossoming developments as a director. But anything he's gained technically, he's lost in his pen.

Smith's typically sardonic, theatrical banter is replaced by schmaltzy dialogue that sounds as if it was operated on by too many script doctors. His characters say all the right things at all the right times to elicit the intended heartstring-tugging responses. The spoon-fed words of wisdom by Liv Tyler's character spell out the subtext for us, leaving little for the

PLEASE SEE TRITE ON 15

Jersey Girl rocks

Kevin Smith creates a heartwarming and witty revelation



Jersey Girl (PG-13)

Comedy / drama
<http://www.jerseygirl-movie.com>

BRETT RYAN BONOWICZ
Staff Writer

Jersey Girl is writer and director Kevin Smith's first foray into filmmaking without the net of *Jay and Silent Bob* and the "Askewniverse," the universe created by his first five films. Gone are the references to Julie Dwyer and the YMCA pool; gone are Shannon Hamilton and Brodie Bruce. Instead Smith has created a romantic comedy that is beautiful and real, slop-

py and graceful.

Ben Affleck plays Ollie Trinkle, a man coping with the loss of his New York publicist lifestyle. Coupled with the gain of a new wife (Jennifer Lopez) and the surprise of a child on the way, Ollie has a new life waiting ahead for him, and it may not be the one he wants.

There is only one word for Ben's performance in this film — affleckalicious. Ben demonstrates yet again that he can be an extraordinary actor if he's given the right material with the right director holding the reigns. As Ollie, Affleck shows a man broken to his core, who must build himself up again surrounded by the people that have always cared for him. It's a stunning transformation and not an easy one to pull off. Watching Affleck act is like looking at a great painting, the man simply owns the frame.

Backing up Affleck is an excellent supporting cast including George Carlin, Liv Tyler and Jason Biggs. While the cast is top-notch all around, Tyler is the real find here. She injects her character Maya with more than just life; she injects her with a soul. Her character, who Affleck meets in a video store, has the potential of being silly, laughable or caricatured. Amazingly, Tyler leaps through all those hoops and comes out on the other end with a living, breathing woman, strong and sad, gentle and true.

Another surprise in the film is Raquel Castro. A zinger for a Ben and Jen kid if there ever was one, she perfectly captures the feelings and thoughts of young Gertie, the *Jersey Girl* of the title.

Jersey Girl is Smith's most personal work. It rises above the likes of his previous dramatic work in *Chasing Amy*, due to the fact that Smith is finally unafraid to reveal his heart. While not an out and out drama, *Jersey Girl* has some of the most dramatic moments ever seen in a Smith film. These aren't

PLEASE SEE SMITH'S ON 15



COURTESY MIRAMAX FILMS

Also new to theaters this weekend

The Ladykillers (R)

Comedy / crime
<http://ladykillers.movies.com>

In case you've managed to somehow miss the trailers running all the time on TV, *The Ladykillers* comes out tomorrow. A remake of a 1955 movie by the same name, the movie stars Tom Hanks as a professor who gathers thieves for a casino heist. Hanks' character lives in an old woman's basement, and when he and band of thieves aren't playing music, they're planning a heist.

Directed by the Coen brothers of *Fargo*, *Hudsucker Proxy* and *O Brother, Where Art Thou?* fame, the movie also features Irma P. Hall and Marlon Wayans.

Scooby-Doo 2: Monsters Unleashed (PG)

Comedy / mystery
<http://www.scoobydoo2movie.com>

You thought Scoob and the gang had managed to capture all of the corrupt, mask-wearing carnival workers, bankers and farmers, didn't you? Well, you were wrong. Evidently the city of Coolsville is under attack by a masked villain who uses a machine to reproduce monsters from episodes past. Joy! Captain Cutler, The Creeper and the 10,000 Volt Ghost are all back to wreak havoc. The sequel to 2002's *Scooby-Doo*, the film has Freddie Prinze Jr., Sarah Michelle Gellar, Seth Green and Alicia Silverstone. Evidently, once the bottom drops out on teen films this is all you have left.



BRETT RYAN BONOWICZ

CINESCENE

All the President's man

Why can't the real president be more like a movie president? Suave, diviner ... literate. When I watch Bush on television, I don't have the sense of security I do when Morgan Freeman or Michael Douglas speak to me as the president. Perhaps it's just my own warped sense of reality, but when I can believe fiction over reality, something needs to change. If I can't trust the actions set forth in my reality but can accept Morgan Freeman telling me that meteors are still headed for Earth, something is wrong.

We write these movies with strong presidents because I think that maybe we want figures like that to rule the country. America wants a strong father figure, not a drunken uncle. Since the early days of cinema, filmmakers have created idealized political figures. From *Mr. Smith Goes to Washington* all the way up to *Air Force One*, we empower these figures to the point of myth. If George W. Bush shouted at someone "Get off my plane," one couldn't start to take him seriously.

Maybe the solution isn't a better president; it's an acting president. Look at Ronald Reagan. He was an actor. He was in some pretty good movies too. *The Killers* was a great movie. We need a president who was in a movie like *The Killers*. Reagan didn't do too bad; eight years in office and he even named one of his defense projects after a movie: *Star Wars*.

Maybe Doc Brown had it right when he said "No wonder your president has to be an actor. He's got to look good on television." Maybe it's not what President Bush is saying; maybe it's how he looks when he's saying it. It's hard to hear news about eildoers from a shriveled-up monkey wearing a suit. Those kinds of announcements should be reserved for respectable-looking people who don't have to stammer through each sentence because the words aren't all monosyllabic.

But maybe I'm being too harsh. Being the president isn't all about looking good and being able to read and write; there's more to it than that. He's the man that makes millions of decisions that affect the hundreds of millions of people that populate this broad land. If I were president, I might not even bother showering or getting dressed. I mean, it just seems so inane when compared to the worries of the rest of the country. Movie presidents have make-up artists, cinematographers and agents to make them look much better than they are.

Who am I kidding, the president can't possibly compete with these movie moguls and their trusted posse. He's just one man, a lonely man, and while he's not quite *A Man Apart*, he is part of a man. And let's face it: who else is going to do the job better? This Kerry? Isn't that a girl's name?

While I may not get to elect the perfect president this November, I sure can write one. He'll be tall, salt and pepper hair, around 50. He'll be married, with a kid or two; he'll be charismatic, not dodgy. He'll love the people and will never talk down to me. And of course, he'll have a heart, a beating one, something I hear is a hard find in politics these days.

E-mail Brett Ryan Bonowicz at brett@theindie.com

THEATERS & TIMES

Loews Universal Cineplex
6000 Universal Blvd., 407-354-5998

Never Die Alone
12:35 p.m. 1:35 2:40:30 4:50 5:50 7:00 8:05 9:10
10:15 11:25 12:25 a.m.

Scoby Doo 2
12:00 p.m. 1:00 2:05 3:05 4:15 5:20 6:25 7:30 8:35
9:40 10:45 11:55

The Ladykillers
12:15 p.m. 1:05 2:30 3:15 4:55 5:35 7:20 8:00 9:50
10:25 12:15 a.m. 12:45

Jersey Girl
12:40 p.m. 2:55 5:15 7:35 10:00 12:25 a.m.

Dawn of the Dead
12:05 p.m. 1:20 2:15 3:30 4:00 4:30 5:45 7:05 8:10
9:00 9:30 10:30 11:45 12:45 a.m.

Taking Lives
12:10 p.m. 12:40 2:25 3:00 4:45 5:25 7:15 7:45 9:45
10:20 12:05 a.m. 12:30

Eternal Sunshine
12:20 p.m. 2:50 5:15 7:40 10:15 12:35 a.m.

Secret Window
12:30 p.m. 2:45 5:05 7:25 9:55 12:10 a.m.

Agent Cody Banks
1:30 p.m. 3:50 6:05

Starsky & Hutch
12:35 p.m. 2:50 5:00 7:10 9:35 11:50

Hidalgo
12:45 p.m. 3:35 6:30 9:25 12:25 a.m.

The Passion of the Christ
12:00 p.m. 1:15 2:35 5:10 6:15 7:55 10:45 11:20

Twisted
8:30 p.m. 10:40 12:45 a.m.

Eurotrip
1:45 p.m. 6:10 10:35

50 First Dates
12:05 p.m. 2:10 4:35 6:55 9:15 11:30

Barbershop 2
3:45 p.m. 8:20 12:40 a.m.

Rocky Horror Picture Show
12:00 a.m.

Regal Oviedo Marketplace
1500 Oviedo Marketplace, 407-977-1107

Jersey Girl
12:00 2:30 5:00 7:30 10:00

The Ladykillers
12:20 1:00 2:50 4:00 5:20 7:00 7:50 9:40
10:20 12:10 a.m.

Never Die Alone
12:20 2:40 5:00 7:20 9:50 12:10 a.m.

Scoby-Doo 2: Monsters Unleashed
12:00 12:30 1:00 2:30 3:00 3:30 4:50 5:20
6:40 7:10 7:40 9:00 9:30 10:00 11:30 12:00 a.m.

Dawn of the Dead
12:20 12:50 2:50 4:40 5:20 7:20 7:50 9:50
10:20 12:20 a.m.

Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind
12:30 4:50 7:30 10:10

Taking Lives
12:10 1:00 2:40 3:40 5:10 6:50 7:40 9:30
10:10 12:00 a.m.

Agent Cody Banks 2: Destination London
12:30 2:50 5:30 8:00 10:20

Secret Window
12:00 2:30 5:00 7:30 10:00

Hidalgo
12:00 3:10 6:50 9:50

Starsky & Hutch
12:10 12:40 2:40 3:50 5:10 7:10 7:40 9:40
10:20 12:20 a.m.

The Passion of the Christ
12:10 12:40 3:20 4:00 6:40 7:00 9:40
10:10 12:10 a.m.

Confessions of a Teenage Drama Queen
12:50 3:10 5:30 8:00 10:10 12:20 a.m.

50 First Dates
12:10 2:30 4:50 7:10 9:30 12:00 a.m.

The Lord of the Rings: The Return of the King
12:20 4:30 8:40

Regal Waterford Lakes
541 North Alafaya Trail, 407-207-9110

Jersey Girl
12:40 4:10 7:30 10:10 12:50 a.m.

The Ladykillers
12:10 1:00 3:50 4:20 7:20 7:50 10:00
10:30 12:40 a.m.

Never Die Alone
12:40 1:10 4:10 4:50 7:10 7:50 9:40 10:20
12:00 a.m. 12:40

Scoby-Doo 2: Monsters Unleashed
12:00 12:20 12:50 2:20 2:40 3:30 4:40
5:00 7:00 7:30 9:30 9:50 12:00 a.m. 12:30

Dawn of the Dead
12:00 12:50 2:30 4:20 5:00 7:00 7:30
10:00 10:30 12:30 a.m.

Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind
12:10 3:50 7:20 10:10 12:50 a.m.

Taking Lives
12:30 4:20 7:10 7:40 9:50 10:20
12:30 a.m.

Agent Cody Banks 2: Destination London
12:10 6:50

Secret Window
12:20 4:00 7:10 10:00 12:40 a.m.

Hidalgo
12:20 3:30 6:50 10:20

Starsky & Hutch
12:30 3:40 6:50 9:40 12:20 a.m.

Twisted
4:40 9:50 12:20 a.m.

The Passion of the Christ
12:00 12:30 3:30 4:00 7:00 7:20 8:00
10:10 10:30 10:50

Confessions of a Teenage Drama Queen
12:40 4:50

50 First Dates
12:50 4:00 7:50 10:40

Regal Winter Park
510 N Orlando Ave., 407-628-0163

Jersey Girl
1:00 3:55 6:50 9:20 11:55

The Ladykillers
11:50 a.m. 1:05 p.m. 2:25 4:05 5:15 6:55
7:50 9:40 10:35 12:30 a.m.

Never Die Alone
12:15 1:10 2:40 3:40 5:05 5:55 7:30 8:20
10:00 10:55 12:25 a.m.

Scoby-Doo 2: Monsters Unleashed
11:55am 12:45 1:20 2:20 3:15 4:10 4:50
5:45 7:25 8:15 9:55 10:50 12:10 a.m.

Dawn of the Dead
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10:40 12:15 a.m.

Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind
12:05 1:40 2:45 4:20 5:25 7:00 8:05 9:35
10:45 12:05 a.m.

Taking Lives
12:10 2:35 5:00 7:35 10:10 12:35 a.m.

Agent Cody Banks 2: Destination London
12:20 3:00 5:30

Secret Window
11:50am 2:10 4:35 7:05 8:00 9:30 10:25
12:00 a.m.

Hidalgo
12:35 3:35 6:40 9:45

Starsky & Hutch
11:55am 2:30 5:20 7:55 10:20

The Passion of the Christ
12:00 3:30 6:45 7:45 9:25 10:30 12:20 a.m.

50 First Dates
12:30 2:50 5:10 7:40 10:05 12:35 a.m.

The Reckoning
12:40 4:00 7:15 10:15

Enzian Theatre
1300 S. Orlando Ave., 407-629-1088

The Company
Friday (3/26): 4:00 p.m. 6:45 9:30
Saturday (3/27) - 1:15 4:00 6:45 9:30
Sunday (3/28): 1:15 4:00 6:45 9:30
Monday (3/29) - 6:45 p.m. 9:30
Tuesday (3/30) - 6:45 p.m.
Wednesday (3/31) - 6:45 p.m. 9:30
Thursday (4/01): 6:45 p.m. 9:30

Listed times weekend unless noted.
All show times subject to change.

Trite plot drags *Jersey*

FROM i4

critic to deduce, unlike the layered complexity of *Chasing Amy* or even the brash Catholicism indictment of *Dogma*.

The story is maddeningly predictable, from its by-the-book plot structure right down to its *Graduate*-style dramatic conclusion. But *Jersey Girl*'s biggest fault? It simply isn't very funny. While I'm all in favor of Smith taking on dramatic terrain, his forte is clearly comedy, and the majority of *Jersey Girl*'s jokes fall flat. Sorry to bring it up again, but *Chasing Amy* is an emotionally exhausting drama and an uproarious comedy at the

same time, weaving the two elements perfectly without eschewing Smith's talents as a comedic auteur.

But Smith has lost that edge with *Jersey Girl*. There are some gems here and there — cameos by Jason Lee, Matt Damon and a surprise Hollywood superstar show Smith. Jennifer Lopez (“Gobble gobble,” remember her?) is fantastic in her small role, displaying more range in her 15 minutes than in her entire body of previous work. But if this is Smith's “mature” film, I'll take the “dick and fart jokes” and constant stream of fresh humor in *Jay and Silent Bob Strike Back* over this feel-good pap any day.

Smith's personal story

FROM i4

just characters poking at the mishmash of pop culture, these are real people dealing with real issues like parenthood, life, death and love.

For the first time in his career, Smith has enlisted ace cinematographer Vilmos Zsigmond. Here, Zsigmond has created the most consistently beautiful images in a Smith film. Simple setups have a grace and fluidity that has eluded Smith before. The camerawork here is never distracting, and its formalism actually enhances the narrative instead of hindering it. Though the

film is not peppered with his usual obscenities, Smith proves here that his wit was never from just his foul mouth; his wordplay is just as sharp here.

Jersey Girl will ultimately be remembered as something of an oddity in the career of Kevin Smith. A bridge between his askewniverse and his Hornetverse (His next film is the comic book adaptation *The Green Hornet*), *Jersey Girl* is a sweet little gem and a hallmark for great acting, sharp dialogue and a story so simple you'll think you'd heard it before, only this time it's from a slightly askewed angle.

2 questions for Smith

FROM i4

KS: Uh huh.
BRB: Who's going to be producing *The Green Hornet*?
KS: I'm not sure yet. I met with a guy out in Los Angeles, who I know, who I like quite a bit, and we sat down to talk about. It might be him. I'm not sure.

BRB: Ok. All right. Great. Thank you.
KS: Thanks man.
And that was it, literally a minute and six seconds of time. It will probably be years before I have the chance (if I ever do) to speak with Kevin Smith again. This was a unique experience in that I

was able to meet an idol of mine. I could have asked if Affleck is well-endowed. I could've asked if Smith felt the digital revolution has created opportunities unavailable to his generation of filmmakers. Better still, I could have asked him if he liked *Punch-Drunk Love* after the *Magnolia* hatred he so publicly displayed. Alas, there's a new film to be found in *Jersey Girl*, a simple story with a big heart. It's Smith's valentine (over a month late) to the town he grew up in, the wife that made him a better man and the daughter he loves more than anything in the world.

Last weekend's top box office hits ...

1. <i>Dawn of the Dead</i>	\$27.3 million
2. <i>The Passion of the Christ</i>	\$19.1 million
3. <i>Taking Lives</i>	\$11.4 million
4. <i>Starsky & Hutch</i>	\$10.6 million
5. <i>Secret Window</i>	\$9.6 million

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T O M H A N K S

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PRODUCED BY ETHAN COEN & JOEL COEN TOM JACOBSON BARRY SONNENFELD AND BARRY JOSEPHSON
WRITTEN FOR THE SCREEN AND DIRECTED BY JOEL COEN, ETHAN COEN

SOUNDTRACK AVAILABLE ON

ladykillers.movies.com

Soundtrack Includes The New Single "Trouble Of This World (Coming Home)" Performed By HAPPY ROOTS

In Theatres March 26

1. Norah Jones, *Feels Like Home*
2. Various Artists, *Bad Boy's 10th Anniversary ... The Hits*
3. Jessica Simpson, *In This Skin*
4. Evanescence, *Fallen*
5. Kenny Chesney, *When the Sun Goes Down*



JERROD ROCKHILL

NO-FIDELITY

Fabulously muscled

When it comes to music, we all have our musical heartthrobs. Whether it is sexual or emotional, we tend to idolize certain individuals for the content of their music. Now, it's perfectly fine to idolize a certain someone as long as you don't mind losing some indie street cred. And I have to confess.

I have a secret gay crush on Jamie Stewart.

Jamie who?

You know, frontman for Xiu Xiu, that crazy experimental Pomo group. That's him.

Of course, if you heard the new album, *Fabulous Muscles*, you'd want to date him too. However, I'll one up you.

Dear Jamie Stewart,

I'm writing you this letter in regard to seeking your hand in marriage. I know this sounds terribly bizarre and a bit outright, but do not worry. Two young, virile, intelligent and handsome gentlemen like us should not bare the brunt of being ridiculously single. I won't rest until I don't care. It's a pill, and you've got to take it. On that notion, I simply ask for your hand in marriage, for the chance to touch your arm. Those fabulous muscles, cremate me before you. Oh, you've heard it all before. I won't rest until you break my will.

Will you marry me, "honeyboy?"

Forever yours,
Jerrod Rockhill

P.S. "Wrap your dreams around my thighs."

I've done it all now in my illustrious journalism career; made fun of the Irish, proposed to another man, debunked Christianity and used the phrase "almost-pornographic" 14 times in print.

No more booze, hookers, cocaine and gambling for me. I'm an almost-married man.

I wish.

Although you may think this is a joke, I dare you to dare me. I'll do it without flinching.

All this talk of love is making me light headed. It's like someone's filming a porno in my chest in the vacant tar-covered area where that organ that circulates blood ... uh ... oh yeah, where the heart is-slash-should be.

There's a moral question in worshipping or idolizing people, whether it's because of dreams or almost-pornographic lust over penetrating their body in a select orifice of your choice.

I would give my left kidney and a few pints of blood for a night with Mister Stewart. If only ... I'll admit it. I'm in pseudo-love with Jamie Stewart.

I'm a pseudo-homosexual.

Back to the moral dilemma, I think at times obsessing about celebrities does nothing but create porno sites and weird legal situations. Celebrities are no different than the rest of us, and the same goes with particularly dreamy individuals in small-time bands as well as small-time, post-modern-slash-experimental bands with offkey tenors.

At least with bands you have the chance to become a groupie. Ahh, groupies. Where would bands be without them? This is the other moral dilemma.

When most people, particularly girls, become fascinated or enraged with a burning, almost-pornographic lust over a lame-at-the-moment band, hordes of girls feel compelled to bum-rush the stage, rip off their clothes and have forcible sex with the band.

It's like when piranha fish smell weakness in the water. Except for ripping flesh off the bone, they're ripping cloth.

This whole idolizing thing has me a bit troubled. Why do people do it when they know it's not going to happen, and the chances of it actually are slim to none?

I, however, have slightly greater odds. After all, this column will be printed 14,000 times, which means there'll be 14,000 copies of my proposal strewn across sunny Central Florida.

You all are invited to the reception.

E-mail Jerrod Rockhill at
jerrod@theindie.com

Big, fat

SHOTGUN WEDDING

Unique Orlando band a cornucopia of rock

RICKY SURILLO
Staff Writer

Added one bad boy, the cute one, the sweet one, and the lead one and you get the perfect recipe for great music. No wait, that's the recipe for '90s boy bands. Shotgun Wedding is about as far from that as any band can get. Actually, it isn't close to anything, in terms of sounding like anyone.

It might have a 14-year-old fan out there, but if that's the case, then that is one smart kid, because Shotgun Wedding is one of the most unique bands to come out of Orlando.

Every story has a beginning, however, and it's usually the ideal place to start. What better way to start a story than with a Dave Matthews cover. Guitarist-keyboardist Ryan Rivas would sit outside Seminole Hall in an attempt to "swoon the ladies," as Rivas put it, which of course worked. What girl wouldn't fall for a guy with a guitar playing Dave Matthews?

Soon after, Rivas decided to drop the Dave Matthews act (leaving that to John Mayer) and start a band with singer-guitarist Matt Cook.

Like most bands early on, there were some quick lineup changes when they joined forces with bassist Michael Cabrera and drummer Wes Wienczek. These four individuals make up Shotgun Wedding today. Each member brings a certain something to the group.

"Matt and I bring pull-ups, Ryan brings post-modern thinking and Wes brings hand sanitizer," Cabrera said.

Obviously, all of these items are essential for creating music. In a more substantial way, however, each member provides different insights and styles that blend together in the perfect way.

While Wienczek listens to a mixture of '80s pop and industrial music, Cook takes the singer/songwriter route — bands

such as Bob Dylan, Bright Eyes and Leonard Cohen, but he's not limited to them. "That's the niche I carve out that the rest of the band isn't really into," Cook added. There are some bands they can all agree on, such as Karate and Cannibal Ox.

With all these different sounds, styles and influences, it would seem impossible to incorporate them all into one stream and make it flow seamlessly, but Shotgun Wedding pulls it off. Not, however, without having difficulty describing its rare sound to others. What better way to solve this problem then by creating a sub-genre, which the band members call "post-cool".

They still run into some problems with their name, since another band wants to claim it for their own. "I say we just challenge them to a Wild West duel. Ten Paces and everything," Cook said.

The band recently finished recording a new five-song EP,

New spins

Bonnie 'Prince' Billy • *Sings Greatest Palace Music*



Genre: Singer / songwriter
Release date: March 23
Record label: Drag City

JOHN THOMASON
Indie Editor

As a way to resuscitate old material into a new context and provide recently converted fans with a summary of an artist's work, the greatest hits album has long been a staple of rock history. But since "hit" usually applies to commercially successful music, few indie bands have been in a position to release one (not that they'd want to anyway).

Bonnie "Prince" Billy is one of the pseudonyms of the iconoclastic Will Oldham, who also records under Palace Music and his own name. The multi-monikered master of melancholy has always been regarded with the same critical fervor as a Neil Young or Leonard Cohen, but his militantly underground nature has insured his status as merely a cult icon. Therefore, it's odd but intriguing when an artist such as Oldham would tinker with his songs' original contexts and put together a greatest hits compilation.

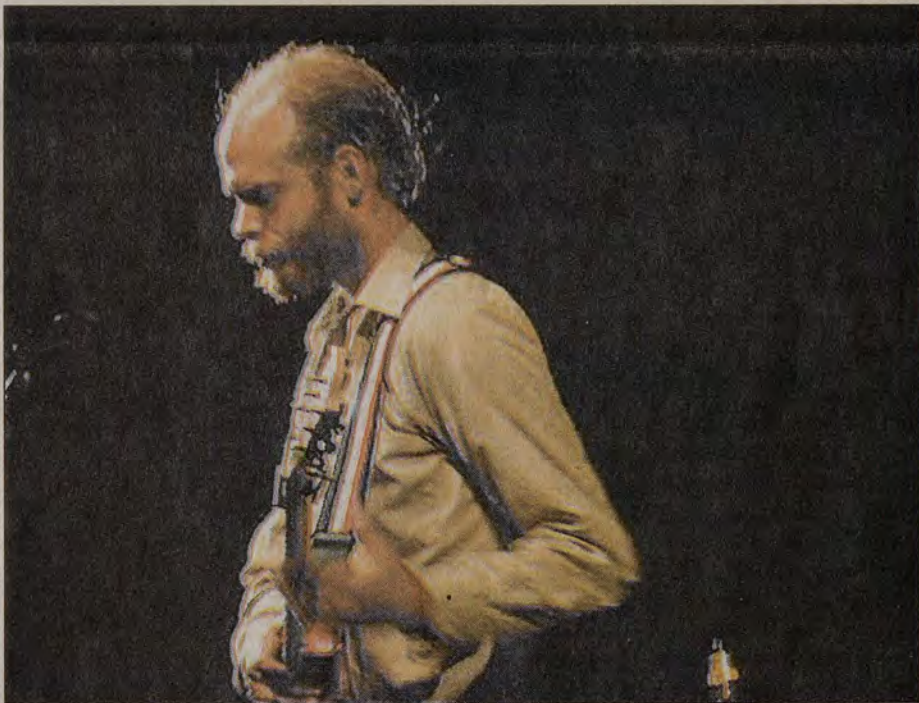
But remember: This is indie rock, people. This isn't your grandma's greatest hits comp. Rather than lazily

plucking songs from his records and re-organizing them into a new tracklist, Oldham got together a group of Nashville session musicians and re-recorded the songs entirely. The result of this possibly ingenious variation on a standard release formula? In this case, I think I'd prefer lazy plucking.

Let's face it. By their very nature, greatest hits compilations are not die-hard fan material. Sure, completists will buy them for cover art, liner notes and filing purposes. However, their dominant use is to provide a reference for an artist's back catalog, so overwhelmed new fans have a comfortable starting place. It would be unfortunate and downright detrimental if *Sings Greatest Palace Music* was one's introduction to the extraordinary talents of Oldham.

With plenty of banjos, harmonicas and the occasional string, Oldham re-imagines his songs as a pastoral Americana homage, with echoes of Woody Guthrie, Willie Nelson and Van Morrison. The songs, however, sound a bit too pretty, a bit too accessible. When re-listening to older Palace material, it becomes quickly apparent which versions are truer.

Sings Greatest Palace Music shows off his influences rather than creating his own oft-imitated style, as he's done with *Viva Lost Blues* and *Days in the Wake*. The latter album is a quiet, minimal, painful and poetic



COURTESY DRAG CITY

excursion into the man's soul, the haunting compositions largely the product of a ragged acoustic guitar and his even more ragged voice. The embellishments here on favorites like "Pushkin" and "I am a Cinematographer" — its distinctive, heart-breaking austerity, replaced here by an upbeat mid-tempo folk song that sounds like a Mermaid Avenue b-side — only detract from Oldham's original visions.

It's almost impossible to make an

Oldham song sound bad, and these musicians excellently create his desired atmosphere. Die-hards will either appreciate his ability to remake his art or pine even more for the originals. First-time listeners should try the singles collection *Lost Blues and Other Songs* long before trying *Sings Greatest Palace Music*. Either way, as an example of reconstruction and comparison/contrast, this record at least never ceases to be interesting.

Onlinedrawing • *The Volunteers EP*



RICKY SURILLO
Staff Writer

Do the words "greatest band ever" mean anything to you? OK, maybe saying greatest is exaggerating a bit. Also, it's hard to say "band" when there is only one real member. But that's not the point. The point of this is that *The Volunteers EP* is one fine piece of work.

Singer/Songwriter Jonah Matranga gives each song its own style and makes all of them stand out on their own, with his sharp lyrics and versatile guitar. The only problem is that this is an EP, so by the time it's over you will be left wanting more. However, the songs don't get old. This is a CD that you can listen to on repeat and never get tired of. Even if you aren't a fan of acoustic/lo-fi, this CD alone might just persuade anyone who listens to it.



Genre: Singer / songwriter
Release date: March 23
Record label: Jade Tree

Tears for Fears • *Everybody Loves a Happy Ending*



CHRISTOPHER SCHWÄRZ
Staff Writer

Everybody knows the song "Everybody Wants to Rule the World." It's from the '80s, created by some guys who were writing emo lyrics before emo became cool. After nine years without a release, Tears for Fears is back with an updated sound that's surprisingly good for a reunion effort.

Their trademark vocal harmonies remain, but upbeat, modern guitars replace their ghostly, slow synth of old, forging a new sound that sits squarely in between their old, depressing new-wave stylings and modern emo/rock music. The mix proves catchy and very singable for both nostalgic old fans and new ones looking for something a little different. Releases by long-dormant artists tend to slip under the radar, but in this case, it's undeserved. The band puts lots of effort into reinventing their sound and has produced something noteworthy that's unlikely to be noted at all. It's almost sad enough to write a song about.



Genre: New Wave
Release date: April 6
Record label: Arista

New on DVD March 30

Remake fails to capture magic of original

MIKE RIEGEL
Staff Writer

Texas Chainsaw Massacre (R)

Theatrical release: Oct. 17, 2003
Box office gross: \$80.4 million

Thirty years ago, director Tobe Hooper ushered in a new era of wonderfully gory cinema with the release of *Texas Chainsaw Massacre*. A few thousand slasher films later, the horror genre has become so saturated with copycats and imitators that it has become comedic fodder for the Wayans brothers.

Unlike its namesake, the 2003 remake of *Texas Chainsaw Massacre* offers nothing new and follows every horror cliché that made millions for the Scream trilogy.

The trip into the land of generic horror starts when five semi-rebellious teens — two girls and three boys — hop into a van for a trip to Dallas and a Lynyrd Skynyrd concert. If that sounds a little dated, it's because the movie takes place in the early '70s — prime time for drug use and casual sex.

What should've been a relaxing weekend of 26-minute renditions of "Sweet Home Alabama"



COURTESY NEW LINE CINEMA

begin to distinguish themselves, lunatics start jumping out of corners.

The fun starts when the kids happen upon a dilapidated house and the town's sadistic sheriff, played by R. Lee Ermey (the sadistic drill sergeant from *Full Metal Jacket*). The house has all the requisite "scary features" such as dead pigs and severed baby-doll heads.

Jessica Biel, who some might recognize from television's *7th Heaven*, is the movie's "heroine." She wants to get married, but she doesn't want to smoke the wacky weed — what an inspiration to today's youth. She gets most of the camera time and choice lines, so it's not too difficult to figure out that the other four are there so the director can showcase some creative ways to skin a youngster.

What better way to dispatch these walking clichés than a fat,

chainsaw-wielding lunatic that enjoys wearing a mask made of his victim's skin?

When the legendary killer, Leatherface, finally emerges, a funny thing happens: I wanted him to kill everyone. If it sounds like I have homicidal tendencies, I don't, at least not while I'm on my medication.

I just thought it would've been novel if Leatherface and his band of merry maniacs were able to completely destroy their unworthy adversaries. A sub-par horror movie can sometimes be

redeemed by an unsuspected ending, but I don't think the new *Texas Chainsaw Massacre* will knock anyone's socks off with its originality.

Fair warning: If you've seen mainstream horror movies like *Urban Legend* and *I Know What You Did Last Summer*, then you've basically seen this one too.

Special features

To make more money from an ignorant, listless public, New Line Home Video has released

two versions of this DVD. There is the basic version, which contains only a few lame features, and the Platinum Series Special Edition with two-discs and several lame features.

Because I'm not paid enough to watch the DVD extras for movies as bad as this, you'll have to take your chances with the dozen or so features found on the extra disc of the special edition.

There's sure to be plenty of insight as to why this movie was such a horrific failure.

Now available on DVD

Dirty Pretty Things (R)

Theatrical release:
July 18, 2003

Box office gross:
\$8.1 million

This dark and atmospheric film from famed British director Stephen Frears is very much of a piece with both his previous caper films like *The Grifters* and his provocative tales of taboo subjects like *Prick Up Your Ears*. A return to the seedy London underground he is so familiar with, the world of *Dirty Pretty Things* is one filled with corruption, prostitution, black market organ sales and toilets clogged by human hearts. A star-making performance by Nigerian actor Chiwetel Ejiofor and a typically excellent performance by Audrey Tatou get dirty and pretty in the lead roles.

The Magdalene Sisters (R)

Theatrical release:
Aug. 1, 2003

Box office gross:
\$4.9 million

This is such an infuriating film that you'll be tempted to scream obscenities at the screen, which will now be a more accommodating option, since this enraging British film is now out on DVD. This film is not enraging in the *Gigli* sense, where you're yelling at the movie because of how painfully its executed; *The Magdalene Sisters'* content — a true story of girls' Catholic asylum abuse — is so graphically depicted that its primal realism borders on discomfort. You may only be able to watch it one time, but its importance is paramount.

Concert preview

A mission to Mars that is worth taking

Mars ILL presents
positive messages
at Back Booth

NICOLE SCHAUB
Staff Writer

The "Smash and Grab Tour," presented by *Insomniac Magazine*, will be hitting Back Booth tonight, featuring the underground hip-hop sounds of Mars ILL, Binkis and local DJ Captain Celsius.

The Atlanta-based duo Mars

ILL, featuring manCHILD on the mic and DJ-producer Dust on the turntables, have been embracing their artistic expressions through hip-hop for several years.

They are "one of the purest hip-hop groups in the genre today," said *Insomniac Magazine* editor Israel Vasquetelle. "Their music, lyrics and stage show are perfect examples of what quality hip-hop is all about." Never willing to be pressured by the industry, Mars ILL stays true to their roots, revolutionizing rap with simplicity, passion and a progres-

sive sound. "Our sounds honestly reflect what our lives are like, and people respond to our vulnerability," said manCHILD. Releasing their first album *Raw Material* in 2001 broke them into the world of underground hip-hop, landing them on the cover of *Southeast Performer Magazine* and print in the publications *Insomniac Magazine*, *Elemental Magazine*, *Mixer* and *Happy*. Their second album, 2002's *The Blue Collar Sessions*, set yet another example of a fresh new hip-hop sound opening with a

rock-inspired electric guitar and symbols. ILL's latest album *Backbreakanomics* features positive messages that engage the audience with lyrics expressing their Christian faith rather than preaching.

The show also features the sounds of respected Atlanta-based progressive hip-hop group Binkis, who released the well-received *The Reign Begins* in late 2003. Also performing will be local artists Nuridians and X144, whose self-released *The Hipocryte Phelloship Project*

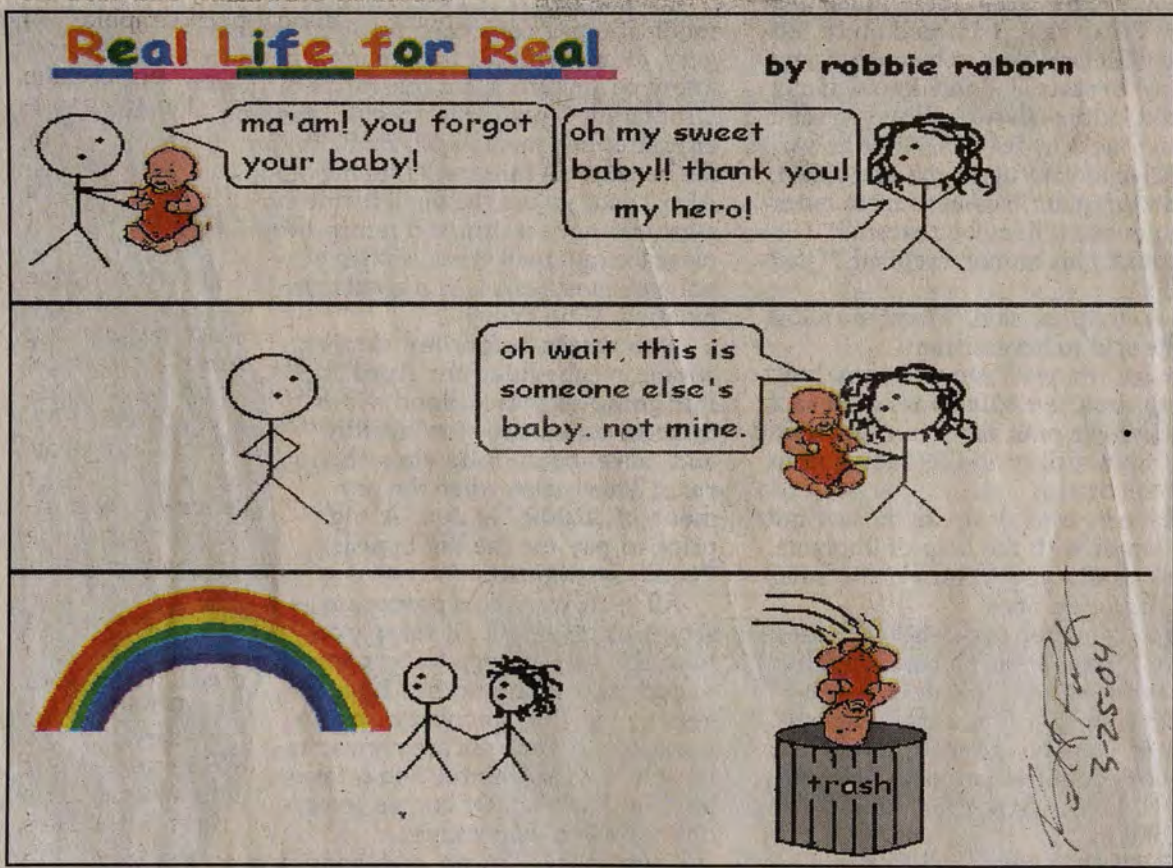
made waves with the Orlando hip-hop fans. Local DJ Captain Celsius will be on the wheels of steel.

The "Smash and Grab Tour" is being brought to Orlando in honor of the *Insomniac Magazine* 7th Year Anniversary. Vasquetelle, the magazine's founder and an original hip-hop artist from The Bronx, is also known for having hosted Orlando's first and longest-running (over a decade) hip-hop radio show, *Drastic Radio*, on WPRK. He started *Insomniac Magazine* to

promote quality hip-hop music and inform readers of artists that he feels should receive recognition for staying true to the roots of the culture. The magazine has become important not only in the Orlando hip-hop scene but also throughout the country. Copies of the nationally-circulated magazine will be available at the venue.

Doors will be opening at 8 p.m. at Back Booth, 37 W. Pine St. Admission is only \$8. For more information, visit <http://www.insomniacmagazine.com>.

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miscellaneous

for the week of March 25 - 31

Top five boring job simulators ...

1. Extreme Editing
2. Normal Guy
3. Sonic the Hedge-trimmer
4. Super Plumbing Bros.
5. Ditch digger 2004



DANA DELAPI

NOT JUST SEX

Love then sex or sex then love?

You know the worst thing about college relationships? Most of the time, we end up doing them backward.

Sex comes before love. Sometimes a long time before even an ounce of love is felt. A friend of mine, after being in a relationship for seven months, recently realized that she loved her boyfriend. The best part for her was that he loved her back. I couldn't be happier if I had love in my own life. However, the fact is they have been sleeping together for a large portion of their seven months, and they are just now professing feelings of something other than lust.

As happy as her love fortune is, it made me wonder about exactly where love fits into the average college relationship. Think back to your high school days. You're walking through the halls, hand-in-hand with that special someone, making googly eyes at each other and accidentally walking way past your locker. Isn't puppy love so sweet?

Ever seen a college couple like that? I haven't, except for the occasional awe-struck freshman. Ever wonder why? In high school, you went to great lengths to really get to know your partner. Three months wasn't a long time at all to be dating someone. Or a long time to wait before having sex. That is unless you had a two-week attention span like me. Either way, you waited an awfully long time before you jumped in the sack with your high school honey. Your mom was happier and less worried back then.

Fast forward to the college years. Three months? Talk about a lifetime. Can you imagine waiting that long to have sex with your partner now? The fact is that as you get older, sex becomes a much more important part of the relationship. It is almost expected to happen sooner rather than later. While I don't believe that this is wrong, I do wonder how you are supposed to fall in love during all of this. And when you do fall in love, what do you have left to offer?

Much as I hate talking about parents and sex in the same sentence, I want you to remember what your mother always said about sex. "Why, honey, sex is an extension of your love for another person." What, your mom never said that? Guess it was just mine. Either way, if you start a relationship with just pure animal lust and no real, deep feelings, how will sex ever become "an extension of your love?"

The way I see it, developing feelings after you have already done the deed is going to pose nothing but problems. Fact: No one likes to say "I love you" unless they know they will hear it in return. That said, you never know how a person will respond, so nine times out of 10, you won't say it at all. And if you don't say it, then the sex is guaranteed to be bad — while you take it to an emotional place, your partner is strictly on the physical plane. This sparks confusion and feelings of stagnancy.

The point of all this? Having sex too early might put an unneeded burden on a relationship, especially if you are looking for love. However, who really wants to return to the high-school mentality and wait an eternity for sex? Not I, says this super-fly chick.

As cynical as I am about all this love stuff, I still have to have faith. I am still looking. It happened to my friend, it could happen to me, and you. I'll let ya know when it does.

E-mail Dana Delapi at dana@theindie.com

Boob job update



The BREAST service in town continues

Implants step two: meeting with the doctor

BRIAR ALEKSUN
Staff Writer

Over Spring Break, while most of you were getting drunk and obnoxious, I went to the boob doctor. Practicing in Stuart, Fla., Dr. Luis Villar has been giving women what they want for more than 20 years. After seeing some of his incredible work, I decided to check him out and vice versa.

After signing in at Dr. Villar's office, I was led to a small room with "before and after" photos of several surgeries covering the walls. "Wow," I said to my boyfriend. "That's amazing!"

We waited a few minutes, me sitting topless and my boyfriend reading a magazine, before the doctor came in. "So what can I do for ya,?" Dr. Villar asked before turning to me and seeing my problem. "Let me guess, you want to know about bilateral subglandular augmentation mammoplasty."

"That's right," I said, guessing that he meant a boob job.

"Well, let

me first make sure you don't have any lumps," Dr. Villar said. I immediately felt comfortable with Dr. Villar as he pushed and squeezed my breasts. I don't know if my boyfriend did. After all, he had never seen another man touch my breasts. After he was done, Dr. Villar looked up at me and asked, "So, do you want giant bazookas from outer space or do you want juicy but natural?"

Taken aback by his humor, I replied, "I just want a C cup."

"We can do that," he said. "Hand me a 250 and a 275," he said to his assistant.

"Put this on, and we'll see what you look like with both sizes," Dr. Villar's assistant said while handing me a pink, lacey bra. She then proceeded to put a silicone-filled implant in each cup of the bra.

My boyfriend's eyes lit up as he saw my chest grow larger with the help of implants. "Those look really good, honey," he said, pointing to the larger ones.

I turned to a mirror and felt both sides. They felt pretty damn real. I slipped my shirt over them, and they still looked real.

"We could go bigger if you chose to, but I think these fit your body nicely," Dr. Villar said. "You look proportionate with these."

"As long as I don't look ridiculous, I'll be happy," I replied.

"Ok, then 275 CC's it is," Dr. Villar said for his assistant to write down. "Now all we need is to get you your homework and set up a date for surgery."

My homework consists of three pages of medications I can't take prior to the surgery, along with all the things I need to know to ensure a successful boob job. Ultimately, I just have to quit smoking cigarettes and avoid aspirin and ibuprofen because all three will thin my blood. Also, I can't go out the night before surgery and have a drunken going-away party for my small chest. Mixing alcohol and anesthesia isn't a good combination. Who knew?

Two weeks before my surgery, which is scheduled for April 26, I'm going to have blood work done to make sure I'm healthy and have been following the rules. This is also when the payment of \$7,000 is due. A big price to pay for the big breasts I've always wanted.

All in all, the whole procedure seems to be simple. It takes one hour for the surgery to be completed, and then another hour is spent in the recovery room. Because the implants are above the muscle, it's less painful, and it takes less time to heal. Of course, everyone varies, so who knows.

I just hope I'm up and bouncing around for this summer. I have a few new bikinis just waiting to be filled up!

AMBER PLANK / the indie & JERROD ROCKHILL / the indie

Bleeps and bloop

Go Harvest Moon-ing

The excitement of, uh ... farming brought to life in all its glory

CHRISTOPHER SCHWARZ
Staff Writer

Released March 18, *Harvest Moon: A Wonderful Life* is another game concept that falls into the category of ideas that sound absolutely terrible on paper. As fans of any of the previous seven games would know, *Harvest Moon* is a

quirky series that combines all the boredom of being a farmer with the sexual deviance of a Japanese dating simulator, minus the rape and scat fetishes, of course.

A typical day might begin with waking up on your farm. Task No. 1 is to grab a watering pail and tirelessly spritz every vegetable in the field. We don't have modern technology such as "sprinklers," so you must use a tiny watering pail like your granddaddy did until he died of exhaustion and boredom, thus leaving the farm to you. As you soon find out when cutting grass for fodder, the tools he left you are made of lead, because swinging

them three times makes you pass out from overexertion. Fodder in hand, you dash into the barn and feed your cow. First, talk to her to find out that "Cow is feeling fine!" A heart icon will appear to indicate that your cow is made happier by your efforts. Next, press the Y button to bend down and rub your face on the cow's for another heart. I call this "hug-gling," for lack of a better word. That done, bend over and get to milking those teats dry, as they're most of your daily income.

With the bovine battalion satiated, dash over to the avian orgy. Check under every hen to look for an egg, pausing to

hugle each of them. If you bought a cock, it serves no purpose but to screw your hens silly, so don't forget to see if any of the eggs have been magically and randomly "fertilized." Finally, take your milk and eggs and put them in the selling bin. Your grandpa's old friend lives on the farm for no apparent reason and will sell them for you. This allows more time for the game's fun parts, like pimping.

The most important decision in your farmer's life is which girl he wants to marry. Your choices are roughly, "shy and personable," "slutty and stupid," or, "smart and bitchy." Whichever you choose will be

wooded if you talk to her daily and give her a certain item as a present. You can also peek in her diary to find out to what degree she has the hots for you. Of course, she can watch you do this every day and doesn't seem to care. Girls in real life need a love-o-meter too. It would make things so much easier.

At the end of the day, you can farm some more, go fishing, or just get drunk and hit on the women until bedtime. Supposedly, later stages of the game will make you get married and raise children, but I haven't played that far yet. Until next week, I'll get back to my hoes ... of both types.

Eat it Cooking with Foreman

Boxer's grill invention is better than his career in the ring

DUFFY HERY
Staff Writer

Before Muhammad Ali took his throne in Zaire, boxer George Foreman stood as heavyweight champion of the world. He was fierce, mean and the scariest-looking boxer before "Iron" Mike Tyson.

Anyone who isn't a fan of boxing or was born after 1970 wouldn't have a clue about George's boxing career. They would know of only the one American

of college. Before then, whenever I saw the ads on TV, I just thought of everything else I've tried that never worked ("The Perfect Pancake" is a great example.) So, I just passed it by every time I saw the boxes stacked in a pyramid during Christmas at the mall.

When my cousin told me about this terrific piece of machinery, I was lured in by its magic. He said he couldn't believe how much he could cook on it. I decided that I should go ahead and give it a try. By then, the grill had reached the common infomercial price of just \$19.95. So, I decided to ask my parents for

one at Christmas.

On Christmas day, I received what would later become my loyal gourmet companion. A blue model "Champ"-size grill with smiling George on the cover.

After two years with George by my side, I have created some of the best meals I have ever eaten. With this grill, anyone can fake their way into being a gourmet chef. It cooks anything you could possibly want quickly.

I've also found that with good preparation and the use of the Internet, a person can find and create all sorts of great meals. It's especially great for a date,

issued with textbooks and tuition. In the Student Union, we should have George Foreman stations instead of the computer stations that never work anyway. I personally believe it would improve our chances of recruiting football players to our school by sweetening the deal with a special edition gold and black grill. I can see it already. University of Florida gives a high school lineman a chance to play with the Gators and get a free ride in college. UCF does all of that plus they get a George Foreman Grill. Would a hungry, meat-eating football player pass that up?

This wonderful innovation isn't just for cooking meat. I currently live with a vegetarian, and grilling greens such as asparagus, potatoes and corn isn't a problem at all. So all those crazy folks out there that want to save the cows, the Foreman is still the greatest grill for you.

The best is yet to come. I consider myself extremely lazy. That's why the George Foreman grill helps me out so much. Because the grill is coated with Teflon, cleaning takes only five minutes of running water, a little bit of soap and a sponge. When clean, the grill looks like it just came out of the box again.

There are still college students living under the control of macaroni and cheese and the microwave. For these poor souls, I offer the Foreman. Meals at the apartment won't be disasters in the making, and you may even enjoy cooking for once.



icon he stands for, "The George Foreman Grill" or doubly titled, "The Lean Mean Grilling Machine".

Created in the early '90s, it was originally found only on late night infomercials. It later spawned into a Christmas favorite throughout the years. I was first introduced to the little wonder my freshman year

because ladies love men that can cook well. After they've tasted your lemon chicken, they may even look over the Budweiser mirror or the Walgreens wine.

As a typical college student, I believe these grills should be

COURTESY HTTP://WWW.GEORGEFOREMAN.COM/

Tube time Perturbed Enthusiasm

The spirit of Costanza lives on

nnnnnn

MICHAEL LAWRENCE
Staff Writer

Curb Your Enthusiasm has just ended its fourth season on HBO, and I'm already pinning for its return. The series, which airs a scant 10 episodes a year, is the epitome of quality over quantity. It would not be an overstatement to consider it the funniest half hour on television. It also happens to be the most uncomfortable show on television, putting those six-hour stomach surgery documentaries to shame. The uniqueness of the show should be partially accredited to HBO, who respects its audience and gives them the original programming they pay extra for.

The basic premise of the show is that Larry David, co-creator of *Seinfeld*, is now well off in Los Angeles, getting into arguments with everyone from his wife to the nurse in the waiting room. If you think Woody Allen is too neurotic, this show is not for you. The way it's filmed, in a documentary style on video, with improvised dialogue, makes the arguments realistic and cringe-worthy. Its cruel, honest humor is the perfect antidote to these puritanical times. The majority of people would hate someone like Larry, yet for those who accept their faults, they'll relate to the poor schlub. For those who do hate him, don't worry, Larry usually ends up getting his comeuppance.

Each season has an overlying storyline, and the fourth delivered two: Larry portraying Max Bialystock in the musical *The Producers* and Larry trying to have sex with someone as part of a deal with

his wife. The two stories unfold and conclude beautifully, adding suspense to the discomfort. There are also several stand-alone episodes, such as my personal favorite, "The Car Pool Lane," in which Larry somehow ends up hanging out with a big black prostitute. Totally surreal.

Several celebrities appear, some as fictional characters,

and others as themselves. Watching established stars like Ben Stiller argue with Larry over birthday etiquette or seating arrangements in cars is funnier than anything in *Starsky & Hutch*. The show was even able to bring a good performance out of David Schwimmer of all people. Now that's impressive!

Curb may not have the

replay value of something as detailed as *The Simpsons* and that's where it suffers. Even as a fan of the show, I can't find it in me to watch an episode again. It's that unnerving. Like a good horror film, however, that just proves the show's effectiveness. It truly is an uproarious experience while it lasts and should not be missed.

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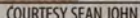
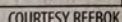
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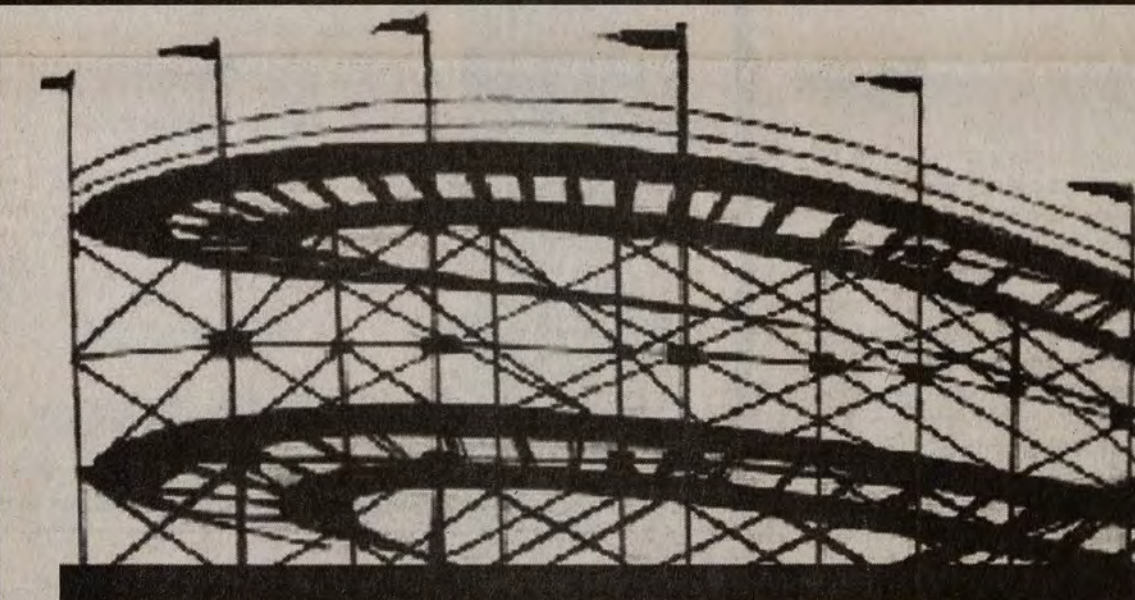
FROM i2

The Elements' historian Jennifer Bast compared, tongue-in-cheek, the money-making strategies of new artists and old artists. "You never saw Stevie Wonder selling books for the blind or Tina Turner selling slimming pantyhose," she said. "This sadly has become what being

Bast said hip-hop, sadly, has become all about publicity and money. "Music was a way to reach and connect with people," she said. "Now we sell them \$150 sneakers with a name on the side and a \$90 pair of jeans because they match."



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ramblings

for the week of March 25 - 31



MICHAEL LAWRENCE

NEAR-LIFE EXPERIENCE

Holy bat nipples!

In a week, the next comic-book-based film, *Hellboy*, will be released in theaters nationally, and I am worried. Comic-book movies usually suck. Big time. For every *Ghost World* or *American Splendor*, there are ten *Batman* and *Robins* and a couple of *Steels*. Comic-book films, like Rob Leifeld on a project, don't seem to work out right for several reasons.

First off, you can't approach the adaptation of a comic the way you can a book in most cases. Books are written by one or two people, and unless a comic is like *Road to Perdition*, a stand-alone piece with only one artist and writer, you have to sift through the many interpretations of characters.

For instance, look at *Spider-man*. *Spider-man* has appeared in thousands of comics, done by many different creative minds. There is no accurate way to portray him onscreen without doing some injustice. If he's too much like Stan Lee's version that original fans remember, and not enough like Brian Michael Bendis' version that readers know now, viewers will be alienated. *Spider-man* has battled countless super-villains and dealt with many personal dramas. Which ones do you include, and why are some excluded? While none will argue with the absence of the *Clone Saga*, I along with many other fans would have rather had *Spider-man* date Gwen Stacy and lose her to the Green Goblin, because that's the *Spider-man* I know and love. Chris Claremont's humongous run on *Uncanny X-Men*, the series most memorable, was a team book that allowed each character to develop and flesh out, whereas the movies were essentially about Wolverine and made everyone else a secondary character.

There are comic characters that have been around for more than 60 years! They've evolved and have been interpreted in astounding ways. How do you compress that much story into an hour and a half of movie time? It's difficult enough adapting a 600-page book, but imagine how hard it is to adapt a story that often changes every month for decades? Most studios don't know where to begin, and so the viewer ends up with a shoddy product. The directors will toss the source material in the dumpster and try out their own interpretation on a character instead, a la *The Hulk*. Apparently someone thought Hulk fighting radioactive poodles was a good idea.

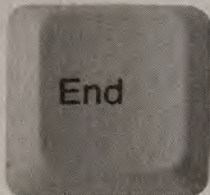
Even with a stand-alone piece you can make a film that's unbearable to watch, like *League of Extraordinary Gentleman*. The book was drawn by Kevin O'Neill and written by Alan Moore, one of the greatest writers in the medium. Its problem was another common one that often plagues all forms of adaptation: People muck it up. In the case of *League*, they neutered the gothic, violent nature of the story. The Invisible Man went from being a rapist in the comic to the buffoonish comic relief in the film. It was as if all of the energy and intelligence of the book had been trimmed to appease studio heads and marketing committees. *Hellboy*, which draws its source from a dark comic dealing with Nazis and the paranormal, has a similar chance to be tamed. The one thing that comics and movies have always had in common is that when all is said and done they're made to make money. Since movies cost a lot more to produce, they have to attract a bigger audience than a comic ever would. You can get 500,000 to read a *Howard the Duck* comic book and call it a hit, however if that many people come to the theater to see it, it's a massive bomb. The fans of the comic, who anticipate seeing their beloved heroes onscreen the most, get the shaft — unless it's something smaller like *Ghost World* or *The Crow*, which can be more true to their four-color counterparts. The big studios often make unnecessary changes to sell tickets with disastrous results. Did Richard Pryor ever battle Superman in the comics? Did Macy Gray ever appear in an issue of *Spider-man*?

Comic films have become massive moneymakers, and with the likes of *Blade: Trinity*, *The Punisher* and *Spider-man 2* stepping up to the plate this year, we may be in store for more "Crisis on Infinite Screens."

E-mail Michael Lawrence at michael@theindie.com

WEB LESS TRAVELED

The shrimp that your mom warned you about



BRANDON HARDIN

The other day, I was talking to a fan of the comic.

Quit laughing. Just pretend.

They said one of three things:

1. Brandon, you're amazingly witty and net-savvy. I want your love child.

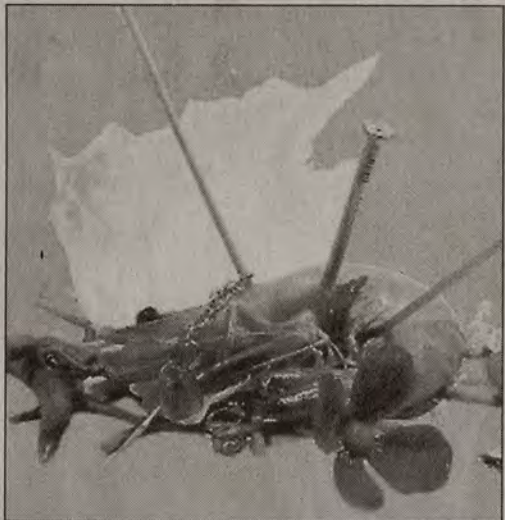
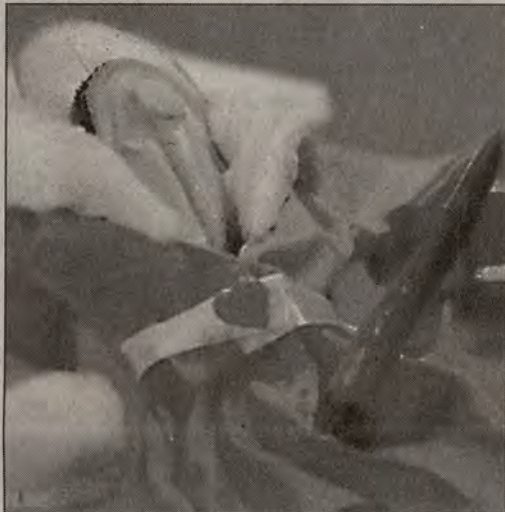
2. Hey, let me buy you a beer for that great Mr. T link a while back.

3. Damn it, Brandon, I saw the links you had last week months ago! Give me something new.

Guess which one? Anyone who guessed one or two is obviously mentally damaged. We all know that would never happen. But No. 3 actually has happened, several times.

The Internet is a fickle mistress. It's always changing and expanding, and good old standby links die. Anyone remember Afrosquad.com or Furnitreporn.com? They are gone, but not forgotten.

An unintended side effect of writing a column about the Inter-



IMAGES COURTESY [HTTP://WWW.PRAWNOGRAPHY.NET](http://www.prawnography.net)

net is that I have to spend less time on it to do writing and editing and procrastinating. I'm a good procrastinator and all, but it's really hard to come up with an excuse about how you're not writing a column on the Internet because you don't have time. Especially when you're actually spending hours each day begging CNN to update its page and waiting for others to post in online forums so you have something new to read.

All the best sites hide in the corners on the Web. I know I've asked this numerous times. I'm asking one last time.

If you have any weird or entertaining links, send them to me and I'll run them in here. Hell, I'll even credit you with finding it.

There's no real theme to this week's Web Less Traveled. Just your usual collection of randomness, courtesy of the collective consciousness of millions of people working together to help stop me from being bored.

At least, that's how I like to think of it.

<http://www.fanta.dk>

Providing endless amounts of amusement, Fanta.dk allows people to script their own movie. Kind of.

The catch is, your movie is entirely in Hindi, with subtitles. You select between movie scenes, add in subtitles and wham! It's Oscar time.

Finally, though, my dream of directing an Indian movie, complete with elaborate dance scenes and an insane love story, is nearly complete! I can't wait.

When you're done with your masterpiece, you can send a link to a friend and torment them with your



creation.

<http://www.area29.com/sfwporn>

It's porn!

Only not. "Safe for work" porn is like caffeine-free coffee. What's the point?

I've seen more risqué ads in the Sears pull-outs in the *Orlando Sentinel*.

Perhaps the best feature is the ability to scroll the pictures. I guess in case your hands are too busy collating copies or something.

<http://www.prawnography.net>

While we're on the topic of porn, here's another site that's not quite kosher.

Heh, get it? Not quite kosher? It's a porn site about shellfish?

I'm so witty, it's amazing I haven't been shot.

See shrimp in compromising positions! See oysters take on three shrimp at a time!

Broken down into all of the usual categories like group, fetish, hardcore and amateur, Prawnography.net leads the way in shellfish exploitation.

http://www.datacraft.co.jp/takagism/index_e.html

I drank too much last night.

I thought what time it was now. I felt thirst of the throat.

The bed was different from usual.

Is this a hotel?

No, it does not seem to be a hotel.

I am shut up.

I have to escape.

That's the setup for the most addicting flash game I have yet to play. That's all of the story you get. You wake up trapped in a crimson room, and you have to find your way out. As simple as it sounds, it isn't. This is not for the easily frustrated.

E-mail Brandon Hardin at brandon@theindie.com

GOING OVER THE UNDERBELLY

An introduction to UCF's surreal side with your new host



SEAN HUNTING

In television slang there is a specific term that could be used to describe this column. I'm a mid-season replacement. When a show isn't working out in the constant ratings war that is television, it is promptly canceled and filled with mediocre broadcasting. The difference between television and the indie is that nobody reads the indie. In other words, Angus' Beef obviously wasn't canceled because you weren't reading. God knows if you weren't reading that you aren't reading this either.

No, Angus had to go because we were sick of writing it. We ran out of moderately annoying things to bitch about so we killed off the old man. And considering McWither-

spoon wasn't real in the first place, I think we should come clean and admit that Ludacris had nothing to do with it.

Now old wrinkle fist (that's my nickname for Angus, not some sort of obscure fetish) needs a mediocre replacement, and who better to bring it to you than the most mediocre the indie has to give. To continue the television metaphor, here's the pitch:

My opinion doesn't matter. I don't really have a stance on any issues. I'm definitely not particularly angry about anything, nor am I passionate about anything that you would care about. In other words I just don't have it in me to complain like Angus did. If I was going to complain it would be about politics or technology or religion or something important like that. The fact of the matter is, I don't know squat about that stuff, and I too would have to resort to talking about how stupid paninis are.

Instead of anger, I bring insanity. If there is one thing UCF has enough of, it's that. Orlando is all stocked up on crazy. The other day I was sitting on my porch, and this kid on a skateboard rolled by me playing the accordion. A week

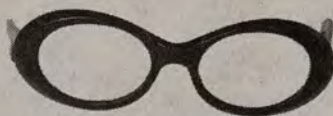
before that I had one of those ridiculous UCF squirrels confuse me for a tree and climb up my leg. Just a few nights ago, my home was burglarized, and the thugs who did it barely got any of my good stuff.

This stuff may seem pretty tame as far as surreal experiences go, but keep in mind this is just the stuff I had no control over. There are strange things happening every day on campus and all over Orlando. I can and will find them for you. On off weeks when I can't find a crackhead to talk to or a GWAR concert to attend, I will not submit to normality. I will lie my ass off and give you a story about ninjas or superheroes.

To quote George Burns: "All my stories are true ... even if they didn't really happen."

Maybe this isn't the best introduction for a new column. Although, none of the other columns even need introductions at all. They just jumped right into being geeks, cinephiles and fake 77-year-old men. To be fair though ... what more do you expect from a mediocre, midsemester replacement column?

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ELIZABETH FERNANDEZ

THE GEEK LIFE

Rogue rebellions

I love space pirates. There, I said it. It feels good to get it off my chest.

The truth is, I love pirates of all kinds, but space pirates hold a special place in my heart. I can understand that my love of all things sci-fi would obviously make space pirates extra special in my book, but why the fascination with pirates in the first place? I don't think I'm alone here, considering the amount of money *Pirates of the Caribbean* raked in. In fact, this goes deeper, involving a larger fascination with thieves, rogues, ne'er-do-wells and the like. I'm sure I'm not the only person in love with Captain Jack Sparrow.

These fictional characters are living on the edge of society in an already fantastical universe. Since it's fiction, of course, the likable blackguards usually have many redeeming qualities, while the real pirates of the Caribbean these days are probably not nearly as nice as one would hope.

There are many great scoundrels out there in the fiction universe. Now, I am not really the kind of geek who goes around composing constant exhaustive lists, but I think it would be nice to go back and remember some of the great scoundrels that have entertained, delighted and charmed us throughout the years.

When I was in middle school, there was a certain card-wielding Cajun that always made me quiver. I am speaking, of course, of our dear friend and X-Man Gambit. Man, what a delectable creature he was. And of course, he was badass as well. A thief turned hero, the ragin' Cajun was known for his exploding card tricks, questionable morals and ease with the ladies. And his great hair, of course. He wasn't the only rogue-turned-X-Man, of course. We can't forget Rogue herself. She actually stole her powers from another hero back when she was in the Brotherhood of Evil Mutants, by far the cheesiest-named group of villains ever. Their off-again-on-again scoundrel romance was one of my favorites.

Then there is the epic space pirate Captain Harlock of the *Galaxy Express 999* universe. He also had his own show in the '70s, where he soared through the skies on the good ship *Arcadia*, and many space pirate friends like Emeraldas, a female pirate of galaxy-renowned prowess. I am so jealous of them. I would give just about anything to be a space pirate. Imagine flying through the universe, answering to no one, taking what you please ... it would be a dream come true.

And speaking of scoundrels in space, let's not forget smuggler and bartender Quark of *Star Trek: Deep Space Nine*. He's ugly, greedy, smarmy and just plain ornery, but I must admit, I'd go to Quark's Bar every night. Quark follows his *Ferengi Rules of Acquisition* with a passion. Plus, he would be the only one able to get me those fun substances the Federation generally frowns upon.

Final Fantasy, of course, has featured lovable scoundrels for nearly two decades. Remember Lock from *Final Fantasy III/VI*? The delightful "treasure hunter" spent his life trying to make up for the guilt he felt over causing his girlfriend's memory loss. If ever there was a more lovable thief, I am hard pressed to find one.

Yes, there is something very attractive about ignoring all the rules and making your own. You have to respect rakish rogues with their own sense of right and wrong. It really takes something special to take that leap, to forsake everything society says is right and decide for yourself what morality really is. There are people out there in the real world who follow their own rules, but they are few and far between. The thing that makes the true rogue truly likable is their integrity. The most likable scoundrels follow their own sense of judgment, no matter the consequences. Their moral compass may not always point in the same direction as the rest of the world, but it does point somewhere.

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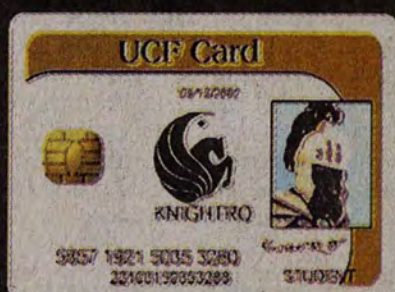
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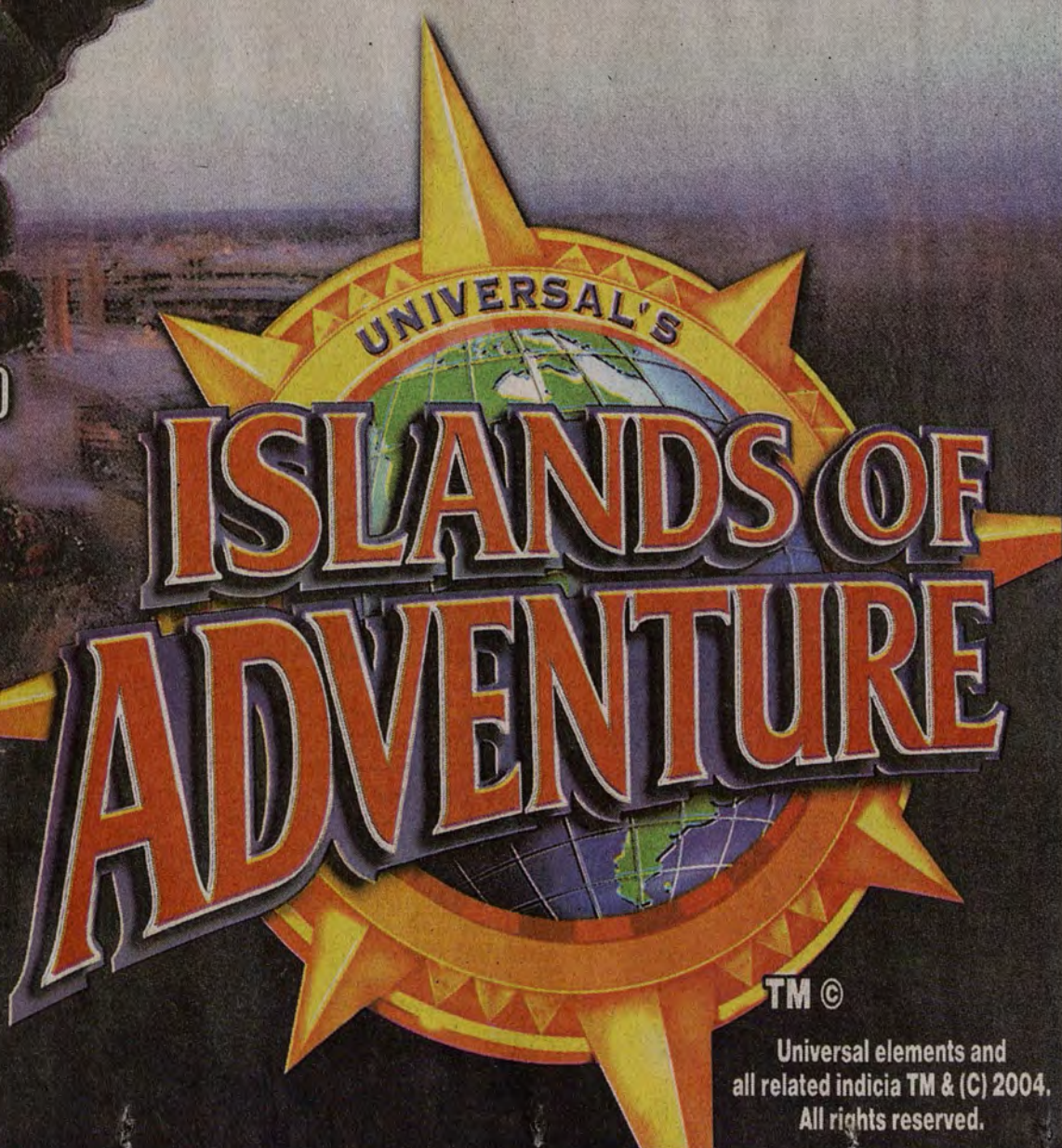
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